

**Title: Introducing the Hellenic National Space Weather Research Network (HNSWRN)**

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### **Abstract**

In this talk we will introduce *the Hellenic National Space Weather Research Network (HNSWRN)*, which was established through a successfully financed “Thalis Research Project”. The main goal of this Research Network is the advancing of the current understanding of the Sun-Earth connection, through a focused, thorough and well – targeted research plan. The Sun incessantly and intermittently forces the terrestrial and other planetary magnetospheres both with its far-reaching magnetic fields and continuous plasma flows, known as the *solar wind*, and via sudden explosions (*solar flares*) related to expulsions of magnetic flux and plasma in the heliosphere, known as *coronal mass ejections* (CMEs). This variable solar forcing is termed *Space Weather*, in analogy to terrestrial weather. Inclement (i.e., powered by solar eruptions) space weather poses a serious safety threat to our space assets (e.g., satellites, astronauts) and to sensitive ground-based activities and infrastructure (e.g., power grids, polar flights, GPS-reliant tasks).