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Title: The CHEOPS mission

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Abstract: The Characterizing Exoplanet Satellite (CHEOPS) will be the first mission dedicated to search for transits by means of ultrahigh precision photometry on bright stars already known to host planets. By being able to point at nearly any location on the sky, this follow-up mission will provide the unique capability of determining accurate radii for a subset of those planets for which the mass has already been estimated from ground-based spectroscopic surveys. It will also provide precise radii for new planets discovered by the next generation transit surveys (such as NGTS). Focusing on Neptunes and super-Earths around bright stars, CHEOPS will moreover identify golden targets for detailed characterization with spectrographs equipping future large telescopes in space and on the ground. CHEOPS has been recently selected as the European Space Agency's first "small"-class mission as well as the next European exoplanet mission. It is scheduled for a launch in 2017. I will present the science objectives and top-level requirements of the mission and provide an update on his current status.

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