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SMART-1 Moon impact on 3 Sept 2006: predictions and observation campaign

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SMART-1 orbited the Moon until impact on 3 September 2006 at 05h42 UT. The impact took place in grazing incidence with mass of 285 kg at a velocity of 2 km/s in the Lake of Excellence. A slight thrusting was performed in June, July and 2 days before impact to fine tune the exact time of impact, and permitting near-side impact and adequate illumination conditions and astronomical observations. We called the community to make predictions of impact magnitude, cloud ejecta dynamics, exospheric effects. We also called the ground based observers to perform coordinated measurements of the impact. We shall describe the operations until impact. Results from the coordinated multi-site campaign will be discussed.

SMART-1 website: http://sci.esa.int/smart-1/