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MINERVA, a new X-ray facility in operation for the characterization of the NewATHENA Mirror Modules at the ALBA Synchrotron

The ALBA Synchrotron (Barcelona, Spain) is commissioning MINERVA a new X-ray beamline designed to support the development of the NewATHENA mission (Advanced Telescope for High Energy Astrophysics), which mission is to observe and study energetic objects in space (accretion disk around black holes, large-scale structure, etc...). MINERVA is dedicated to assemble stacks manufactured by cosine into mirror modules (MM), building blocks of the NewATHENA optics. The new beamline is originally based on the monochromatic pencil beam XPBF 2.0 at the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB at BESSY II) but also includes additional features on the scanning scheme to improve the characterization time of each MM produced. Interoperability between MINERVA and XPBF 2.0 is nonetheless preserved to strengthen the mass production of the MMs and characterize their performance. MINERVA is funded by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and will enter in operation by autumn 2023.

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no

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