The EPIC Experiment On-board the XMM Satellite

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ABSTRACT

The European Photon Imaging Camera, EPIC, is an experiment with imaging and spectroscopic capabilities in the X-Ray band. It is based on cooled CCDs mounted into three EPIC camera heads located at the focal points of the three grazing incidence mirror modules of the ESA mission XMM. EPIC has been developed within an international consortium of ten scientific institutes in Italy, Germany, France and the U.K.

The XMM program was initiated by ESA in 1988 and now, after the delivery of the Flight Models in Autumn 1998, we are in the final testing phases prior to the launch which is foreseen for the 15th December 1999 or 21st January 2000. Herein we briefly describe the detectors, the electronic chains, the calibrations and the instrument performance.