

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

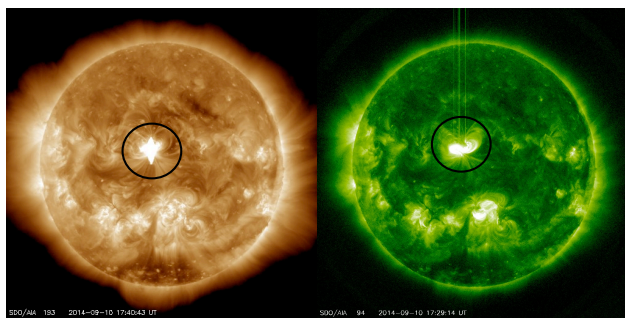
**From the Space Weather Centre of the South African National Space Agency**

**For Immediate Release**

Hermanus, South Africa, 12 September 2014

### **CME FROM SOLAR FLARE HEADS TOWARDS EARTH**

Active region 2158 near the centre of the solar disk erupted on 10 September 2014 with an X1.6 class solar flare accompanied by a coronal mass ejection (CME). The CME is travelling towards Earth and is expected to impact the Earth's magnetic field on 12 September 2014. Based on time/height measurements of SOHO/LASCO data the CME speed is estimated at ~ 1493 km/s. The impact of the CME could spark a moderate geomagnetic storm with an estimated Kp value of 6 through 12 - 14 September 2014 and will continuously be monitored by the South African National Space Agency (SANSa).



[http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/assets/img/browse/2014/09/10/20140910\\_172914\\_1024\\_0094.jpg](http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/assets/img/browse/2014/09/10/20140910_172914_1024_0094.jpg)  
[http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/assets/img/browse/2014/09/10/20140910\\_174043\\_1024\\_0193.jpg](http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/assets/img/browse/2014/09/10/20140910_174043_1024_0193.jpg)

A CME is a massive cloud of high energy particles ejected from the surface of the Sun when stored energy is suddenly released. When the magnetic field of a CME interacts with the Earth's magnetic field it causes a temporary disturbance known as a geomagnetic storm.

The impact of a CME will not harm humans and other life forms on Earth as we are protected by the Earth's magnetic field. However it may cause disturbances to our satellite communication systems like GPS, radio communications, internet, cell phones and DStv. Moderate disturbances are expected at this stage.

#### **For more information please contact:**

1. Vaneshree Maharaj  
Corporate Communications Manager  
SANSa Corporate Office

Email: [vmaharaj@sansa.org.za](mailto:vmaharaj@sansa.org.za)  
Tel: +27 12 844 0399  
Cell: +27 82 851 9317

2. Mpho Tshisaphungo  
Space Weather Practitioner  
SANSa Space Weather Centre

Email: [mtshisaphungo@sansa.org.za](mailto:mtshisaphungo@sansa.org.za)  
Tel: +27 28 312 1196  
Cell: +27 82 614 5836

Website: [www.sansa.org.za](http://www.sansa.org.za) & <http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za>