Craig
DeForest
(PUNCH PI), SWRI
Oral
We are well under 1 year to launch, and PUNCH integration and test is well underway. I’ll briefly remind everyone (and newcomers) about what PUNCH is about scientifically, then segue into current status, which is exciting. All the instruments have been delivered; the Observatories are being integrated; and the fleet leaders (WFI-1 and NFI) are in their test campaigns. We are on track for an early 2025 launch, in keeping with our scheduled delivery to the launch site in late January. The SOC team are working furiously to have the pipeline ready to deliver data to SDAC and index it with the VSO, right as the “tap turns on” next year. It is time to turn from deep preparation to getting ready to accept real data from PUNCH for science analysis, at L+90d — i.e. in late Spring 2025.
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