

March 2017 has been a more active month in the sense of geomagnetic activity. A number of only 16 CMEs has been spotted, with only 1 CME with angular width $90^\circ < \text{da} < 180^\circ$ resulting into distinct modulation of the galactic cosmic rays (source: <http://sidc.oma.be/cactus/catalog.php>). March was a very quiet month in the production rate of solar flares (SFs). A number of only 9 SFs were spotted, the most energetic one being a C5.1 SF on 27/03/2017 at 17:55 UT (start time) from AR2645 with coordinates S09E62 (Fig. 1).

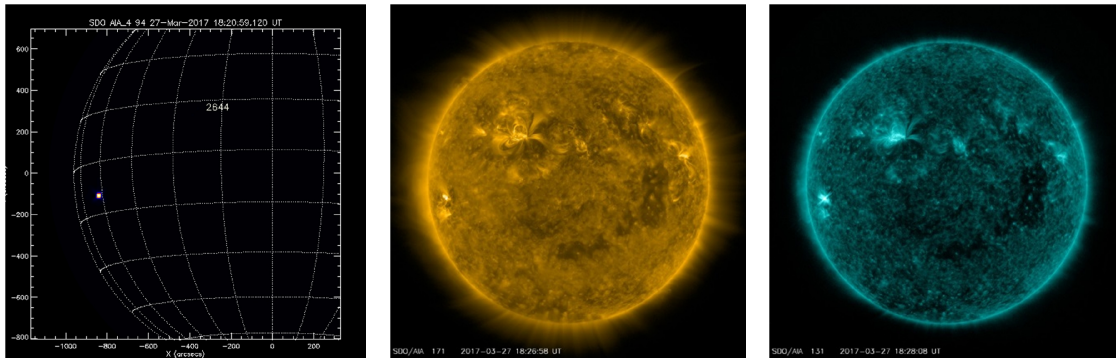
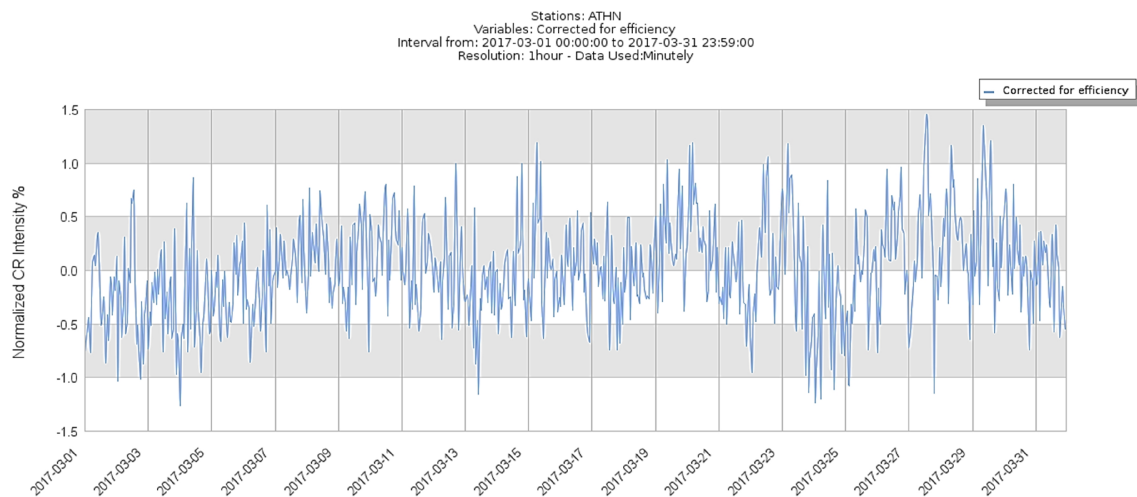


Figure 1: The C5.1 SF of 27/03/2017 at 18:20 UT peak time (from <http://www.lmsal.com/solarsoft> and <http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/aiahmi/>)

The interaction of high speed streams of solar wind from large coronal holes with Earth's magnetosphere on March 1-3, 21-22 and 27-31 was triggered geomagnetic storms of G1 and G2 levels. The results of these events, as well as the disturbances on Mar. 5 and 7-9, were spotted on the cosmic ray intensity as Forbush decreases during this month, recorded at Athens Neutron Monitor Station (cut-off rigidity 8.53 GV) with amplitudes varied from 1% up to almost 3% (Fig. 2).



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Figure 2: Hourly corrected for pressure and efficiency values of the cosmic ray intensity recorded by Athens Neutron Monitor Station from 01-31/03/2017 (From the multi station data service of Athens NM Station).

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