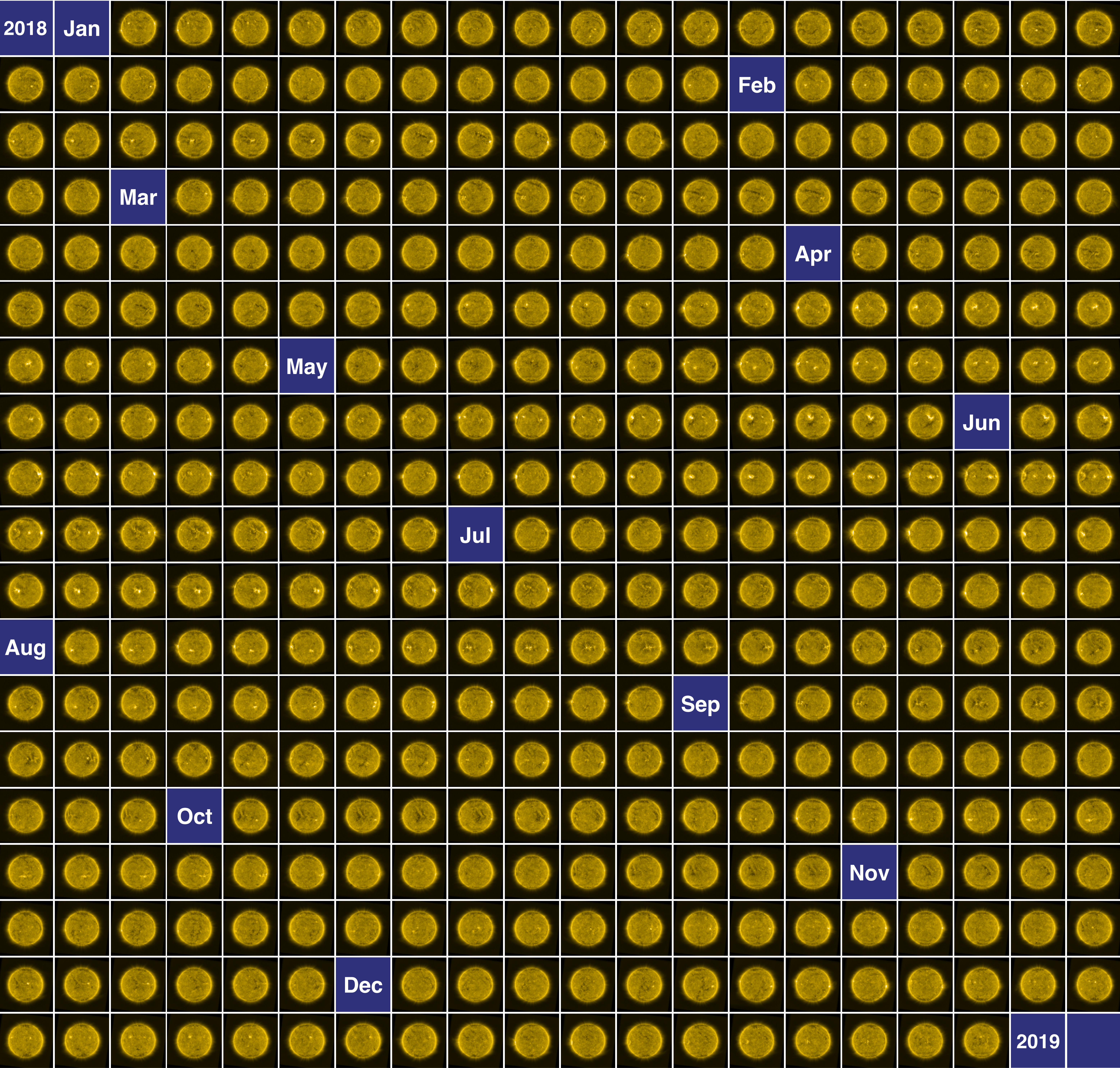


THE EVOLVING SUN THROUGHOUT 2018



Throughout 2018 the Sun truly embraced its solar minimum status, with its most energetic flare being a C-8.1 class flare produced on 07-February-2018 from a small region located at central latitudes in the eastern hemisphere of the Sun (that is to the left of the centre of the Sun). In comparison, the largest flare ever recorded with modern instrumentation was an X-20 class flare on 02-April-2001, which is over 100 times more energetic.

Throughout solar minimum there are few active regions (the bright regions in the images above) on the Sun. This can be useful for studying the evolution of these regions without the complication of overlapping and interacting regions. Active regions can persist for days to months, and are observed to rotate across the Sun's face many times. The changing activity of the Sun was continuously monitored by SWAP—the extreme-ultraviolet imager aboard ESA's PROBA2 satellite—which is represented in the series of images above, where one image was selected to represent each day of the mission during 2018.

