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**EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**  
**SOLAR SYSTEM WORKING GROUP**

**Recommendation on Exo-Mars**

At its extraordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at ESA Headquarters, Paris, the Solar System Working Group was presented with a report by the Exo-Mars Project Scientist on the latest status of the mission and its payload.

The SSWG viewed very positively the high potential science outcome of the Exo-Mars mission.

Two recommendations were made:

1. ESA should conduct an open AO process and perform a formal peer review on proposed instruments for the Geophysics and Environmental Package (GEP). Clearly, being part of the optional programme, account will need to be taken of parameters which are not purely scientific. However, ESA should seek, wherever possible, a full and fair competition.
2. The SSWG viewed with some concern that there was no Experiment Interface Document from the spacecraft side. Without this document, the detailed definition of payload and its interfaces remains limited and resulting in uncertainties in payload definition, and, ultimately, cost. The SSWG recommends that the Project initiates an Experiment Interface Document as rapidly as possible. This would allow the compilation of a payload complement fully compatible with the spacecraft resources. Furthermore, instruments which underwent successfully a peer review but are presenting completely revised resource budgets should be technically reviewed before being included in the final payload complement.