

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ASTRONOMY WORKING GROUP

**Recommendation on the schedule of the Call for Cosmic Vision Proposals
and the evaluation of the proposals**

At its 125th meeting held on 6-7 April 2006 at ESTEC, Noordwijk (NL), the Astronomy Working Group (AWG) was presented with the Executive's Plan for implementing the Call for Mission Proposals within the frame of Cosmic Vision 2015-25. The Plan will be submitted to the SPC for approval at its meeting in May 2006.

The AWG strongly supports the timely release of the Announcement of Opportunity, and anticipates a large and enthusiastic response from the scientific community. Mindful of this, the AWG wishes to ensure that ESA and its advisory structure have sufficient time for a thorough review of the proposals before sound recommendations can be presented to the SPC.

The AWG discussed the best ways to guarantee a fair and efficient evaluation of the proposals.

The AWG recommends a two-stage process:

- in a first step, to draw up a short list of the best proposals at a special meeting of the AWG, roughly midway through the review process;
- in a second step, to invite the PIs of the short-listed proposals to present and discuss their proposal with the AWG.

The AWG therefore strongly recommends that a period of at least three months is allocated to the overall process.