

### **General Proposal Content**

#### **Scientific objectives**

The scientific goals of the proposed mission should be described in detail, clearly stating how the measurements and observations will lead to the achievement of the stated scientific goals. These should be described in clear language understandable by scientists who are not necessarily specialists in the field. The proposal should explain how the stated scientific objectives fit in the framework of the goals in the Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 plan and, in general, in the larger pictures of the advancement of knowledge in the field. The timeliness of the proposed mission should also be explained in the context of other existing or planned facilities, both space- and ground-based.

#### **International Partners**

If the mission is proposed as a collaboration with international partners (including national funding agencies within ESA member states), the partners should be identified already in the Letter of Intent. The international partners will have to formally state their commitment with a letter attached to the proposal, as discussed in the main text of the Call. At the ESTEC briefing, advice will be provided regarding this issue.

#### **Payload concept**

The proposal should contain a proposed instrument complement meeting the stated scientific objectives, together with a preliminary payload funding scheme. Indication of instrument performance, basic technical parameters and special requirements should be provided. Guidelines on optimal and cost-effective experiment design will be provided by the Executive at the ESTEC briefing.

#### **Mission requirements**

The main requirements on mission design (mission profile) should be described in the proposal, such as: preferred orbits and/or trajectories, operational mode, mission lifetime, particular communication requirements.

#### **Science operations and Archiving**

The proposal should contain a proposed operations concept for the mission, with a description of the proposed share of responsibilities for the operations, as well as an indication of the size of the operations. The expected volume and format of the acquired data, the site of the active and historical archives, the proposed funding source(s) (e.g., PI institutes, national funding agencies, ESA Science Programme) should be indicated, together with a proposed data policy for the mission (e.g. what is the data return foreseen for Principal Investigators, what data would be publicly available, etc.).

## **Technological development requirements**

The technological development requirements should be identified for the various elements of the mission, including, where possible, the Technology Readiness Level of key elements (cf. Annex 4, Table 6), particularly with regard to the payload and to any non-standard mission element.

## **Management and Funding**

Information regarding specific capabilities and experience in the scientific institutes involved in the proposal and potential collaborative arrangements, expected funding sources outside of the ESA Science Programme and any other relevant programmatic or financial data should be included.

## **Communication and Outreach**

The communication potential of the mission should be described and the proposed communication-outreach activities, as well as the means to carry them out, should be outlined.