

**To: SPC, SSAC, Working Groups
and Scientific Community**

Our ref. D/SRE/AG/PE/FF/jv/27930

Paris, 1st September 2011

**Subject: Phobos-Soil (Phobos-Grunt) Guest Investigators Announcement of
Opportunity**

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to invite you to respond to the “Announcement of Opportunity” (AO) to submit proposals for scientific analysis of data, or theoretical and modeling studies supported by data, from the Russian Phobos-Soil (Phobos-Grunt) Mission.

The Phobos-Soil mission, to be launched in November 2011, is a Russian project proposed by the Council on Space of the Russian Academy of Science and implemented by the Russian Federal Space Agency. ESA provides ground station support under the agreement between ESA and the Russian Federal Space Agency, and has negotiated in return access to Phobos-Soil data for scientists in ESA Member States. Through the present AO, scientists in ESA Member States are invited to submit proposals for scientific analysis using Phobos-Soil data under this agreement.

The Guest Investigator Programme covered by this AO is open to scientists working in institutions in the Member States of ESA and the Russian Federation. ESA Member State proposals should include a letter of support from the relevant national agency or funding institute. Proposals will be evaluated by a review board appointed by the European Space Agency, the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Further details regarding the Phobos-Soil mission can be found in the Announcement of Opportunity.

The Announcement of Opportunity will close on **30 November 2011** with a deadline for a mandatory letter of intent on 30 September. Proposals must be prepared in accordance with the information provided at:

<http://sci.esa.int/Phobos-Soil-AO>

and must be submitted electronically to ESA with a copy to the relevant funding institution.



I would appreciate if you would circulate this Announcement to interested colleagues within your institute,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alvaro Giménez-Cañete'.

Alvaro Giménez-Cañete
Director of Science and Robotic Exploration

Copy: SRE-C, SRE-S, SRE-O, SRE-SM