

**To SPC, SSAC, AWG, SSEWG
and Scientific Community**

Our ref. D/SRE/DJS/AH/og/26760

Paris, 22 July 2010

Subject: Announcement of Opportunity for Payload, Science Ground Segment components and Independent Legacy Scientists for PLATO

Dear Colleagues,

With the present letter I invite the scientific community in the ESA Member States to respond to the Announcements of Opportunities being released today for:

- The provision of Payload and Science Ground Segment components for the PLATO mission,
- Independent Legacy Scientists in the PLATO Science Team

The PLATO mission is a candidate for the M1/M2 launch opportunities in 2017 and 2018, and is currently in a competitive Definition Phase, together with Euclid and Solar Orbiter. At most two out of the current three candidates will in 2011 be adopted for implementation. Concerning the provision of Payload and Science Ground Segment components, the responses to the current AO should be binding for the Definition Phase and in draft form for the Implementation Phase. The selected Consortium will be requested to prepare, during the Definition Phase, a binding proposal for the Implementation Phase. Should PLATO not be adopted in 2011 for a launch in 2017 or 2018, all activities undertaken during the Definition Phase as a result of the present AOs will cease.


The due date for proposal submission is 29 October 2010, at 12:00 Central European Time. Proposals must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the information in the Announcement of Opportunity provided at:

<http://sci.esa.int/PLATO-AO2010>

<http://sci.esa.int/PLATO-ILS>

I should appreciate if you would circulate this information to interested colleagues or institutions.

Yours faithfully,



David Southwood
Director of the ESA Science and Robotic Exploration Programme