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**To: PB-HME, SPC, HESAC, SSAC  
Working Groups and Scientific  
Community**

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Paris, 31 March 2015

**Subject: Announcement of Opportunity for European payload elements on the  
Surface Platform of the ExoMars 2018 mission**

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to invite you to respond to the “Announcement of Opportunity” to submit proposals for European payload elements on the Surface Platform of the ExoMars 2018 mission. This Announcement of Opportunity is issued jointly by ESA and the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IKI).

The Announcement of Opportunity, containing details about the Surface Platform science opportunities of the ExoMars 2018 mission, the templates for the mandatory Letter of Intent and the Proposal and other information needed by proposers can be found at:

<http://exploration.esa.int/exomars-sp-ao/>

The Announcement of Opportunity will close on **2 June 2015 at 12:00** (noon) CEST.

Please note that short mandatory Letters of Intent are required by **15 April 2015 at 12:00** (noon) CEST. Proposals must be submitted electronically to ESA following the instructions given at <http://exploration.esa.int/exomars-sp-ao/>

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this Announcement of Opportunity to interested colleagues within your institute or network.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Alvaro Giménez  
Director of Science and Robotic Exploration