

**SPC, SSAC, Science Working
Groups and Scientific community**

Our ref. D/SRE/FF/og-28531

Paris, 19 November 2012

**Subject: Release of Announcement of Opportunity for the Gaia Data Processing
Archive Access element**

Dear Colleague,

I would like to inform you of the release the Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for the provision of the Archive Access Unit in the Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium (DPAC). The Gaia mission, a global astrometric survey mission, is an element of ESA's Scientific Programme, which is approaching the operational phase of the mission with launch scheduled for October 2013.

Proposals are solicited for the Gaia DPAC Archive Access Co-Ordination Unit, which will provide for scientists access to all data products produced by the Gaia science ground segment. The data processing ground segment is a fundamental element of the mission with the remaining essential Co-Ordination unit required to provide access to the DPAC results. The Archive Access Co-Ordination Unit will be, similarly to the rest of DPAC, a collaboration between the ESA Gaia Science Operations Centre and a substantial broad scientific community funded by national funding agencies.

With this letter I invite proposers from ESA Member States to respond to the AO which is available on line at:

<http://sci.esa.int/Gaia>

Responses to the AO are due by **10 January 2013**.

A copy of the response must also be sent to all national funding agencies who will later be asked to support the DPAC Archive Access Co-Ordination Unit activities.

Best regards,



Alvaro Giménez-Cañete
Director of Science and Robotic Exploration