



Solicitation for Membership in Mars Sample Return Science Planning Group Phase 2 (MSPG-2)

6 April, 2020

Introduction

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA) invite individuals to apply for membership in a new science committee referred to as the Mars Sample Return Science Planning Group Phase 2 (MSPG-2). To respond to this solicitation a letter response of not more than 2-pages is needed by: 4 May, 2020

The Mars Sample Return (hereafter MSR) Campaign is a strategic set of proposed missions to be implemented by a partnership between ESA and NASA that would transport sealed samples, to be collected by NASA's Mars 2020 rover, to the Earth for scientific investigation, the first samples ever to be returned from another planet. The challenge will be keeping the samples safe from Earth and the Earth safe from the samples, while conducting sample science as a world-class international endeavor.

A fundamental premise of the planned MSR partnership is that selected scientists would equitably share in planning, management, and access to the samples for collective scientific benefits and discoveries. The initial MSPG produced a report "[A Framework for Mars Returned Sample Science Management](#)" in October 2019. MSPG-2 will continue to advance MSR science planning using the Framework document, feedback from NASA and ESA, and the NASA-ESA cooperation agreement to formalize the envisioned MSR partnership. The statement of task and other details related to the organization of MSPG-2 can be found in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Expected Processes

It is expected that MSPG-2 will consist of ~25 team members who will work on the tasks described in the ToR. The number and diversity of the MSPG-2 members selected will depend in part on the character of the applicant pool. Personnel will be selected based on experience in particular in the organization and management of large-scale national and international collaborative scientific activities, involvement in one or more sample return planning and/or flight activities, and experience with sample-related scientific issues associated with sample containment and analyses. MSPG-2 will represent the interests of future sample scientists and the MSR partners (i.e. NASA and ESA).

Responding to this Solicitation

Application for membership in MSPG-2 will be in the form of a Letter of Application, accompanied by a current CV.



- The Letter of Application should state the reasons for your interest in this opportunity, and should summarize your experience and expertise of relevance to the tasks described in the ToR,
- Letters of Application are invited only from individuals; group applications will not be considered. In addition, collaborations and teams will not be considered.
- Each Letter of Application is limited to 800 words in English.
- The CV should be up to date, and should describe professional assignments, responsibilities, and peer-reviewed publications, sufficient to establish the candidate's position of expertise, including leadership in the community. We are not requesting that CV's be recast into a single, common format.
- The issuance of this Call for Letters of Application does not obligate NASA or ESA to accept any of the applications. Any costs incurred by an applicant in preparing a submission in response to this Call are the responsibility of the applicant. Participation in MSPG-2 is open to all qualified and interested individuals.
- Responses to this invitation should be received by no later than by 4 May, 2020.
- Please submit Letters of Application as PDFs to: esa-mspg2@esa.int

Selections and Notifications

MSPG-2 members will be selected by a committee comprised of ESA & NASA officials. Notifications are targeted for approximately May 29, 2020.

For any questions, please contact:

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Or

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