Industrial Space Day for BepiColombo Mission
6th March 2007, ESTEC- Noordwijk

With the present announcement, the Agency would like to inform EMITS Users (European Companies and Institutes) of a presentation of the BepiColombo Programme and its procurement opportunities to take place on 6th March 2007 all day in ESTEC.

1. BepiColombo Mission

The interdisciplinary BepiColombo mission is devoted to the thorough exploration of Mercury and its environment with the aim to understand the process of planetary formation and evolution in the hottest part of the proto-planetary nebula as well as to understand similarities and differences between the magnetospheres of Mercury and Earth. The mission will be carried out as a joint project between ESA and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). The baseline mission consists of two scientific orbiters: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO). The orbiters will be launched together on one Soyuz-Fregat 2-1B.

ESA is responsible for the MPO, including instrument integration, and JAXA is responsible for the MMO. ESA will also be responsible for the integration of both scientific orbiters with the Mercury Transfer Module (MTM) into the Mercury Composite Spacecraft (MCS), for the launch and for the cruise operations up to the insertion of the MPO and the MMO into their dedicated orbits in 2019. Finally, ESA is responsible for the mission and scientific operations of the MPO in its orbit around Mercury.

2. Procurement Plan Presentation

Following a competitive procurement process, the Agency will recommend the Industrial Policy Committee (IPC) to select Astrium GmbH as the Prime Contractor for the Implementation Phase Contract. The decision of the IPC is expected end of January 2007 while the Mission approval is expected to be confirmed by the Science Programme Committee (SPC) end of February 2007.

As soon as the IPC and SPC approvals are obtained, Astrium GmbH will be authorised to proceed with the competitive procurement process in order to build up the remainder of the BepiColombo industrial team in compliance with ESA Code of Best Practices.

While a detailed procurement plan will be issued on EMITS at a later stage, it has been considered opportune by Astrium GmbH and ESA to inform as soon as possible candidate subcontractors of the various subsystem and equipment procurement
opportunities as well as the procurement planning and procedure. To this effect, an Industrial Space Day will take place at ESTEC on 6th March 2007.

Should you be interested to participate please notify your interest not later than 15th February 2007 to:

- Astrium GmbH: Mr Friedhelm Reuss (fax: +49754589330; e-mail: Friedhelm.Reuss@astrium.eads.net)
- ESA: Ms Catja van der Ree (fax: +31715655401; e-mail: Catja.van.der.Ree@esa.int)

Please note that for logistic reasons a maximum of 2 participants per Company can be allowed.

Further information on the organisation of the Industrial Space Day will be communicated only to the interested participants.