



Dear Colleague,

The Aeolus atmospheric wind mission will be the second Earth Explorer core mission within ESA's Living Planet program. With a planned launch in 2018, Aeolus will introduce a novel measurement technique aiming at global observations of atmospheric line-of-sight winds. In addition, the mission will provide backscatter and extinction profiles which can be used to detect cloud and aerosol layers along the satellite track. The Aeolus mission objective is to advance our understanding of atmospheric dynamics and provide much needed information to improve weather forecasts. This state-of-the-art mission will also contribute to climate research. Aeolus is scheduled to be launched in 2018 and will have a mission lifetime of at least 3 years. The Aeolus satellite carries a single instrument – a high spectral resolution Doppler wind lidar called Aladin (HSRL DWL). Comprising a powerful laser, a large telescope and two very sensitive particle and molecular backscatter receivers, Aladin will be the first Doppler wind lidar in space.

ESA is pleased to announce the reopening of the CAL/VAL Announcement of Opportunity (AO) call for the Aeolus mission. Previous Aeolus CAL/VAL AO calls were released in 2007 and 2014.

The objective of the current reopening is

- to invite new research groups to participate in Aeolus CAL/VAL

Please note that proposals already submitted/confirmed for the Aeolus CAL/VAL AO delta-call in 2014 remain valid and do not need to be resubmitted.

Funding of the activities solicited through this AO shall be covered by national/institutional resources. There will be no funding available via the Agency. As a CAL/VAL PI or co-PI, access to Aeolus product quality information will become available to you first-hand and before the official product release. Furthermore, you will be given the opportunity to quickly learn cooperate directly with other Aeolus CAL/VAL PIs and to perform joint activities.

Should you be interested in participating to this opportunity, please submit your proposal to ESA directly onto the following Web site:

<https://earth.esa.int/aos/AeolusCalVal>

Further details about this AO, the Aeolus Mission and data description are available at the web address above.

Only those proposals adhering to the pre-defined format will be considered.

Submitted proposals will be reviewed and PIs notified of the review outcome within three months after submission.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at: eohelp@esa.int.

On behalf of ESA:

A. Elfving, *Aeolus Project Manager*

W. Lengert, *Aeolus Mission Manager*

Jonas von Bismarck, *Aeolus Data Quality Manager*

A.G. Straume-Lindner, *Aeolus Mission Scientist*