

Announcement for Self-Volunteer or Nomination of Others to the Venus Science Coordination group (VeSCoor): Opportunity Released

July 20, 2022

Introduction

A new era of Venus science investigation has commenced thanks to the selection of three complementary Venus missions (ESA's Medium class mission EnVision and NASA's two Discovery missions VERITAS and DAVINCI). With these missions planned to visit Venus in the next 10-15 years, ESA and NASA deemed it timely to establish a Venus Science Coordination group (VeSCoor).

VeSCoor is a Venus missions forum for dialogue within the broader Venus scientific community, in support of the upcoming ESA and NASA missions to Venus. VeSCoor's primary goal is to identify new, unanticipated scientific approaches and outcomes based on synergies among the missions to Venus and suggest studies to enhance overall scientific return.

VeSCoor will not evaluate or propose changes to the current mission profiles, scientific objectives, or requirements.

The tasks and expected activities of VeSCoor are illustrated in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) document, part of the documentation package for this Call.

ESA and NASA are the joint convening authorities for VeSCoor. VeSCoor is initially set for 5 years from the date of NASA-ESA's ToR document concurrence but may be renewed at the discretion of NASA and ESA.

NASA's Planetary Science Division extends this invitation for US membership nominations to the VeSCoor. Through a parallel Call, the ESA Director of Science invites scientists affiliated with institutes in the ESA Member States to apply for membership to the VeSCoor group.

One co-chair and up to five members will be selected through the present Call. The VeSCoor co-chair and members will be appointed for a period of two years, renewable.

Early career scientists are specifically encouraged to apply.

Membership Application Requirements

Interested members of the community are invited to review the attached Terms of Reference (ToR) and to submit nominations (including self-nominations) for consideration.

The following information is required to be included as part of each self-nomination package:

- (1) a cover email including the name, phone number, full mailing address, and email address of the nominee;
- (2) a professional abbreviated Venus relevant resume (one-page maximum, included as an attachment); and
- (3) a professional biography highlighting Venus's work (one-page maximum; included as an attachment).

To be considered by NASA, nomination packages must be submitted via email to HQ-VeSCoor@mail.nasa.gov. Submissions must be submitted as a single package, containing the cover email and both required attachments. "Venus Science Coordination Group" must be included in the subject line of the email. Paper-based documents (hard-copies) will not be accepted.

Self-nomination packages that do not include the three (3) mandatory elements listed above will not receive consideration.

The following should be clearly presented in the application:

- Reason for your interest in this opportunity;
- Relevant experience and expertise to the tasks described in the ToR, including leadership in the community; and
- The application should explicitly list the applicant's five "notable achievements" that in the applicant's opinion make her/him particularly suited for consideration. These might be specific publications the applicant has authored, responsibility in the development of projects relevant for Venus' science, etc.

Applications must be from individuals; group applications (including collaborations and teams) will not be considered. The email nomination response is limited to 800 words and the entire application must be written in English.

The issuance of this call for applications does not obligate NASA to accept any of the applicants. Any costs incurred by an applicant in preparing a submission in response to this invitation is the responsibility of the applicant. Participation in VeSCoor is open to all US qualified and interested individuals.

Selections and Notifications

Successful candidates will be appointed ad personam by the Science Directors of the two Agencies. Responses to this invitation should be received no later than 30 September 2022 (11:59 PM ET). Knowledge of the latest Planetary Science Decadal Survey conducted by the National Academies or other relevant advisory reports in planetary science is encouraged. Appointment of selected members to the VeSCoor is planned for the 4th Quarter calendar 2022.

NASA is committed to selecting members to serve on the committee based on their

individual expertise, knowledge, and experience; current/past contributions to the relevant subject area; and overall diversity of the committee. NASA will provide travel and per diem support to the selected scientists for attending VeSCoor meetings (maximum two per year).

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT POINT

Requests for further information should be addressed to:

Adriana Ocampo
Venus International Liaison
NASA HQ
Planetary Science Division
Email: aco@nasa.gov

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Lori S. Glaze
Director, Planetary Science Division

VERITAS: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/veritas>

DAVINCI: <https://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/davinci/>

EnVision: https://www.cosmos.esa.int/documents/5763359/5763378/EnVision_YB_final.pdf

Planetary Decadal Survey: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/26522/interactive/>