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**To: SPC, SSAC, Working Groups
and Scientific Community**

Our ref: D/SCI/LC/ake/29574

Paris, 27 June 2016

Announcement of Opportunity for the operations and scientific exploitation of the SPICE instrument on board the Solar Orbiter mission

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to respond to the Announcement of Opportunity (AO) to submit proposals for the operations and scientific exploitation of the SPICE instrument on board the Solar Orbiter mission.

Solar Orbiter is the first M-class mission of ESA's Cosmic Vision programme. The mission is devoted to solar and heliospheric physics and will provide unprecedented close-up and high-latitude observations of the Sun and inner heliosphere. The mission will be carried out as an ESA mission, in collaboration with NASA, open to the worldwide science community.

The SPICE (Spectral Imaging of the Coronal Environment) instrument will perform extreme ultraviolet imaging spectroscopy to remotely characterise plasma properties of the Sun's on-disc corona. This will enable matching in-situ composition signatures of solar wind streams to their source regions on the Sun's surface.

The SPICE instrument is being procured under ESA's responsibility and ESA's role will end with the in-flight commissioning.

This AO is intended to select the Consortium for the provision of the science operations and scientific exploitation of the SPICE instrument.

The documentation attached to this AO contains all the necessary guidelines and supporting information necessary for the preparation of the proposals.

The deadline for submitting mandatory Letters of Intent is **20 July 2016 at 12:00 CEST (noon)** and the deadline for submitting proposals is **26 September 2016 at 12:00 CEST (noon)**.

Letters of Intent and Proposals must be prepared in accordance with the information provided at:

<http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/call-for-spice-operations/home>

and must be submitted electronically to ESA following the instructions given in the same page.

I would appreciate if you would circulate this Announcement to interested colleagues within your institute or network.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alvaro Giménez', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Alvaro Giménez
Director of Science