

**Subject: Invitation to Tender: AO/1-5805/08/NL/CB
ESA INTERACTION WITH ACADEMIA ON ADVANCED
RESEARCH TOPICS - ARIADNA**

Item no.: 08.197.13
Budget output : 060 (General Studies)

Dear Sirs,

The Agency will carry out periodical and ad-hoc Announcements of Opportunity targeted to specific research communities.

Calls For Proposals

The *Calls for Proposals* consist of announcements of specific assessment studies, in which the topic of research and tasks to be performed have been previously defined by ESA's Advanced Concepts Team and have been identified to have potential in terms of ESA's objectives (see <http://www.esa.int/act> for details on current ACT research).

The European Space Agency (ESA) hereby invites you to submit one or more proposals for the activities listed in Annex B to the Statement of Work (Appendix 1).

in accordance with the following documents:

- Appendix 1 – Statement of Work, including the above mentioned studies descriptions
- Appendix 2 – Draft contract
- Appendix 3 – Special Tender Conditions

Your particular attention is drawn to the following:

- The present Call for Proposals is restricted to universities and research groups. All other entities (e.g. SME's) are not allowed to submit proposals. For more details on study team composition refer to paragraph 6.3 of the Statement of Work (Appendix 1).
- The Agency's General Studies Programme funds this activity. The General Studies Programme is open to all ESA Member States and Cooperating States. The Agency has a budget to perform several low budget studies divided between several Ariadna calls over the course of about 2 years, which in order to ease planning, improve transparency and enhance predictability of the associated administrative procedures, have been divided into the three types described in paragraph 6.2 of the Statement of Work.
- Bidders are requested to submit their proposal based on the template provided in Annex B of the Special Conditions of Tender.
- The Member States of ESA have made it mandatory for the Agency to register economic entities wishing to do business with ESA.
Economic entities (whether commercial or non-profit organisation, natural or legal

persons) wishing to do business with ESA that are not yet registered as potential tenderer, are requested to complete the online questionnaire in INDUSTRY OUTLOOK available via: <http://www.esa.int/home-ind/>. Further assistance in completing the online questionnaire is provided on the ACT website <http://www.esa.int/act>.

On completion of the questionnaire in INDUSTRY OUTLOOK registered economic entities will have to update the questionnaire on an annual basis. Failure to do so will result in EMITS access being blocked.

- Expenses incurred in the preparation and dispatch of the offer will not be reimbursed.
- Tenderers are not authorised to mention in their publicity that they have been invited to tender, are tendering or have tendered, until after written notification of the result of the ITT.
- The tender, and all correspondence relating to it, shall be in English or French.
- This invitation to tender does not bind the Agency in any way to place a contract.
- Any questions relating to this Announcement of Opportunity should be addressed in writing to the above mentioned Contracts Officer.
- The subject Call for Proposals will be available on EMITS on **the 2nd July 2008**. For those universities and institutes presently not connected to EMITS we refer to the following web-site: <http://www.esa.int/gsp/ACT/ariadna/>. In view of the above no printed copies will be sent.

Your offer and all supporting documents, clearly marked with the AO number and the topic number in question, must reach:

Central Registry Office
EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
P.O. Box 299
2200 AG NOORDWIJK
The Netherlands
**for the attention of the Contracts Officer, Mrs. Carla Binedell (RES-PTS) –
AO/1-5805/08/NL/CB**

not later than **12th September 2008 at, 13:00 hours**, and shall be submitted electronically to the Contracts Officer's e-mail address at Carla.Binedell@esa.int, backed-up by one signed paper copy in parallel.

Yours faithfully,

Valerie Kayser
Head of ESTEC Procurement Division for Technology and Support