

D/SRE-CS/MC/iv/25121

Paris, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008

**Dr. Ingo Mueller-Wodarg**  
**Space and Atmospheric Physics Group**  
**Imperial College London**  
**Prince Consort Road**  
**London SW7 2BW**  
**United Kingdom**

Dear Dr. Mueller-Wodarg,

**Subject: Venus Express Drag Investigation**

Thank you for your proposal 'VexAde', that you submitted in response to the request from the Science Working Team of Venus Express, where you describe the background and outline the actions needed to better understand and characterise the upper atmosphere of Venus. This knowledge is of great scientific importance for an improved understanding of the state and dynamics of this region and is essential technical knowledge for carrying out a potential Aerobraking campaign in order to lower the operational orbit.

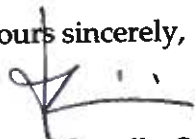
The Science Working Team will be happy to collaborate with you and your team in order to achieve the outlined objectives.

In carrying out these activities we understand that you will be supported by the following scientists:

Prof. Jeffrey Forbes (University of Colorado, USA)  
Prof. Roger Yelle (University of Arizona, USA)  
Dr. Sean Bruinsma (CNES Toulouse, France)  
Dr. Paul Withers (Boston University, USA)  
Dr. Miguel Lopez-Valverde (IAA Granada, Spain)  
Dr. Gerry Keating (George Washington Univ., Virginia, USA)

We further understand that you and your colleagues will seek national funding for carrying out the related activities. Should you need support letters for such applications we will be happy to provide you with them.

Yours sincerely,



**Prof. Marcello Coradini**  
**Coordinator, Solar System Missions**  
**Directorate of Science & Robotic Exploration**