EnVision is an ESA M-class Venus orbiter mission proposal to investigate the surface and atmospheric activity apparent in Venus Express data. Its primary aim is to identify activity and exchanges between the Venus interior, surface and atmosphere, and to illuminate the processes involved.

Since it was first proposed in response to the M3 call in 2010*, and in light of that debrief, EnVision has taken advantage of a number of technical advances. Key features include:

- Ion thrust stabilised 300-km altitude circular polar orbit, nominally for 5 years
- 10 Mbits/s Ka-band average data return rate and 1 TB storage
- >4 kW solar power and ~500 W battery reserve (nocturnal) power
- Accelerometer for advanced gravity/geoid field data
- Surface science suite capable of InSAR, altimetry, radiometry and GPR
- Atmospheric package including IR and UV spectrometers and imagers

First Call

The EnVision science team are pleased to announce a workshop to be held at Imperial College London in support of the M4 bid to ESA, expected in the latter half of 2014.

We therefore invite proposals for science investigations, particularly those taking advantage of EnVision's unique features, as well as complementary investigations (e.g. radio science). Please submit a brief abstract (150-300 words) of your proposal to:

r.ghail@imperial.ac.uk

by Friday 28 February 2014. We also welcome anyone interested in the workshop discussion but not wishing to submit an abstract; please indicate your interest by email.

The workshop will greatly assist the steering committee in defining EnVision's science requirements, instrument suite and mission parameters for the M4 call.

* *The 2010 Envision proposal is described in the following paper:*

R. Ghail, et al., EnVision: taking the pulse of our twin planet. *Experimental Astronomy*, 33, p.337-363, April 2012. doi:10.1007/s10686-011-9244-3