

## Europe's community for planetary science

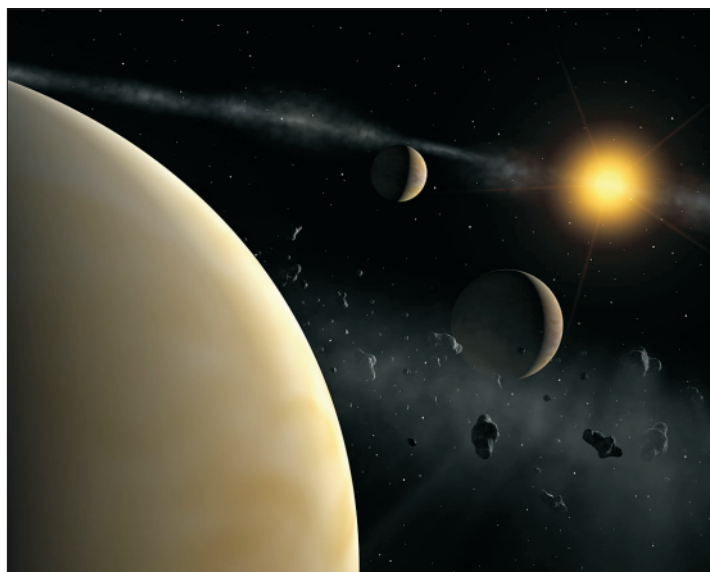
Europlanet links laboratories active in planetary research in Europe and around the world. Since 2005, Europlanet has provided Europe's planetary science community with a platform to exchange ideas and personnel, share research tools, data and facilities, define key science goals for the future, and engage stakeholders, policy makers and European citizens with planetary science.

### Europlanet Community Organisation

- Europlanet is a collegial organisation of signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) designed to give Europlanet a sustained presence.
- To date, more than 70 institutes and companies involved in planetary research and exploration have signed up.
- The Europlanet community is the parent organisation of the European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC), Europe's largest meeting dedicated to planetary science.
- The Europlanet community has provided an active hub for discussing and forming consortia for Horizon 2020 proposals, including DG Enterprise and Industry's Space Calls and DG Research and Innovation's European Research Infrastructure Calls.

Successful Horizon 2020 proposals with involvement from Europlanet members include:

- Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure (funded through Research and Innovation Action INFRAIA-2014-2015)
- EUROCARES (winner of Part 1 COMPET-8-2014 Science in Context: Sample Curation Facility)
- UPWARDS (winner of Part 2 COMPET-8-2014 Science in Context: Scientific Exploitation of Data from Mars Missions)
- EU Space Awareness (winner of COMPET-10-2014: Outreach Through Education).



### Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure (RI)

Europlanet 2020 RI is addressing key scientific and technological challenges facing modern planetary science by providing open access to state-of-the-art research, data, models and facilities across the European Research Area. The project was launched on 1st September 2015 and will run until August 2019. The project is led by the Open University and has 33 beneficiaries from 19 European countries.

Europlanet 2020 RI provides:

- Transnational access to world-leading laboratory facilities that simulate conditions found on planetary bodies, as well as analogue field sites for Mars, Europa and Titan.
- Virtual access to diverse datasets and visualisation tools needed for comparing and understanding planetary environments in the Solar System and beyond.
- Networking activities to enhance cooperation and effective synergies between space missions, ground-based observations, laboratory and field experiments, numerical modelling, and technology.

The project is building a pan-European community that, through common goals, maximises facilities, personnel, data and intellectual property across national boundaries.

Europlanet 2020 RI places strong emphasis on widening participation from under-represented research communities and stakeholders, including countries new to the EU and Inclusiveness States. By building closer ties with between academia and industry, Europlanet 2020 RI aims to expand and enhance the impact of planetary science and innovation in the European Research Area. Through outreach activities, it is engaging European citizens with planetary science and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.