



EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

ELEVATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Issue Date: September 2026

Tenure: Phase A/B1

Candidate Earth Explorer 12 Mission Advisory Group (MAG)

Terms of Reference

The Candidate Earth Explorer 12 Mission Advisory Group (MAG) is tasked to support the Directorate for Earth Observation Programmes during Phases A/B1.

1. The MAG is requested to provide advice on:
 - a. Scientific needs of the user community;
 - b. Formulation of the science goals and mission objectives of the mission;
 - c. Translation of science goals and mission objectives into observation requirements;
 - d. Mission implementation trade-offs;
 - e. Mission products and associated data quality requirements, data product specifications, data quality indicators, and uncertainty estimation;
 - f. Geophysical algorithms for generating mission products;
 - g. Instrument calibration (on ground and in orbit);
 - h. Geophysical validation of mission products and associated campaign needs and approaches;
 - i. Advancement of the mission science and associated study and campaign needs;
 - j. Scope and content of scientific studies required to assess the scientific benefits of the mission.
2. MAG members shall support the mission selection process and contribute to the documentation and material used for this purpose.
3. MAG members shall strengthen the link to the user communities and their representing agencies and promote the mission by means of scientific publications, as well as presentations.
4. The MAG will typically meet in person up to four times a year throughout Phase A/B1.
5. Membership of the MAG is not supported by consultancy contracts, though the Agency will cover travel and subsistence needed for participation at MAG meetings*. Exceptions may occur when specific tasks require particular effort or when members are involved in scientific study contracts**. Membership of the MAG and Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the end of Phase A/B1 activities.
6. A member of the MAG shall not be a member of, or consultant to, any industrial consortium awarded the Phase A/B1 industrial contracts by the Agency for system study developed for this mission.
7. A member of this Group shall be obliged to declare any potential conflict of interest in relation to the development of this mission.
8. A member of the MAG shall not be member of any of ESA's delegate or advisory bodies, including the Programme Board for Earth Observation, the Data Operations, Scientific and Technical Advisory Group, and the Advisory Committee for Earth Observation. A member of the MAG shall not be engaged in an advisory capacity to member state delegations to ESA.
9. MAG members shall sign a non-disclosure agreement to safeguard proprietary information and intellectual property.
10. Communications, press releases and publication material concerning the mission shall be discussed and agreed with the Agency prior to release.

*Subsistence Allowance & Responsibilities of the Agency

The subsistence allowance (Group II per diem), as paid by the Agency shall be deemed to cover all out-of-pocket expenditure, during the relevant period, with the exception of travel expenses. These allowances shall be deemed to cover expenditure such as meals and hotels. ESA assumes no responsibility, or obligation, to refund expenses such as personal insurance, medical expenses, and travel documents (except visa). In the absence of submission of the relevant invoice concerning the hotel (or other official or commercial accommodation), the daily subsistence allowance shall be reduced by 50%. The Agency shall only reimburse travel expenses and subsistence to a bank account held in the name of the attendee of a meeting and not to the bank account of his/her institute or company. Travel expenditure and subsistence shall not be paid to those people who have a non-exchange of funds (NEF) agreement with the Agency.

** In the case of instances where study contract and MAG meetings take place on consecutive days, the ESA study contract reimbursement rules shall take precedence. Although subsistence, if due, will be paid for the days of the MAG meeting.