

# **SMOS Validation and Retrieval Team Plan**

Steven DELWART

ESA/ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands, Steven.Delwart@esa.int

The Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS) mission developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) has been designed to observe soil moisture over the Earth's landmasses and salinity over the oceans. Scheduled for launch in Late 2007, SMOS is the second Earth Explorer mission to be developed as part of ESA's Living Planet Programme. As well as demonstrating the use of a new interferometric L-Band radiometer, the data acquired from this mission will contribute to furthering our knowledge of the Earth's water cycle. A general overview of the SMOS Validation and Retrieval Team proposals will be presented including an overall plan for execution of these activities.