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ESA's Cosmic Vision: The Prospect ahead

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The results are now in and work has started on study of the prime candidates for the long term European space science programme! This follows a year in which a lot of hard work has to have been done by the programme. Following thorough internal and external review the current programme and management commitments have been brought in scope to allow release of the Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 call. Moreover, consistent with the Agency view that science is an area for building international co-operation means early negotiations are starting in parallel for key missions. Consistent with the growing interest in solar and planetary science, science from these fields has a large stake in the future missions set. The formation of a new directorate of Science and Robotic Exploration also engenders new prospects for the solar system science and these will also be explained.