



Call for nominations for the AAL Space Science Leads Committee

Applications close on Friday 10th February 2023, 8:00 PM AEDT.

[Astronomy Australia Limited](#) (AAL) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee whose [members](#) are all Australian universities and research organisations with a significant astronomy research capability. Its core business is to manage programmes which provide astronomers with access to national astronomy infrastructure, including data and computing infrastructure.

The engagement with Space sector and the Australian Space Agency (ASA) has been recommended in the Astronomy Decadal Plan. This advice was highlighted further in the Mid Term Review (MTR) with a recommendation to explore mechanisms in order to build stronger ties between the Australian astronomy community and the wider Australian space science community. The National Research Infrastructure Roadmap released in 2022 placed investment in Space technologies as enabling activity across the economy. Policy makers recognise that astronomy infrastructure is required for Australia to advance our emerging global position in Space sector, which is underpinned by research expertise, geographical location, cutting-edge facilities and advanced manufacturing capabilities.

AAL has been working on a strategy to engage with the Space sector to broaden opportunities for the Australian space astronomy community. This includes improved access to astronomy space missions and data, leveraging the existing capabilities such as ground-stations for mission tracking, seeking opportunities to design and build instrumentation with applications in the space sector, and to engage with industry to utilize astronomical expertise. The AAL Board's objective is to establish a committee of astronomers with expertise/interests in space astronomy programs, and space technology and industry to lead and improve communication within astronomical community and external stakeholders on matters related to Space programs and data.

AAL is seeking nominations from Australian-based astronomers, along with technical personnel associated with Australian astronomy, willing to sit on the new AAL Space Science Leads Committee.

The AAL Board will appoint **up to five members** and the Chair of this committee in February 2023. The normal term will be for 24 months, with a range of 18-30 months appointments being made if required in order to stagger them.

Applications

Astronomy Australia Ltd (AAL) is inviting applications from suitably qualified Australian-based astronomers for the AAL Space Science Leads Committee.

To be considered for the role, applicants should demonstrate their:

- expertise/interests in space astronomy programs, and space industry projects;
- track record of research or technical experience in areas of relevance to space astronomy;
- ability to liaise with the wider Australian community and external stakeholders.

Should you wish to be considered for the AAL Space Science Leads Committee, please email applications@astronomyaustralia.org.au with a maximum three-page application including:

- A covering letter describing your expertise relevant to the committee terms of reference
- A brief CV
- Any relevant conflicts of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact [Dr James Murray](#), Director of Programs, with any questions regarding these vacant committee positions.

AAL is committed to equity and diversity and encourages applications from all interested candidates with relevant expertise and skills.

Please see the following page for Terms of Reference.

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Terms of Reference for the Space Science Leads Committee

In the fast-developing space sector in Australia the Committee is tasked with representing Australian astronomers at national and international space fora. The Committee will work with the AAL CSPO.

The Space Science Leads Committee shall:

- Identify opportunities that could add value to AAL's current business model in engaging with space science sector.
- Engage with the Australian Space Agency and other space sector stakeholders to extend the scope of research and development activity for the Australian astronomy community.
- Review the space engagement opportunities according to national research policy and priorities consistent with the current version of the Decadal Plan and make recommendations to the AAL Board.
- Liaise between Australian space agencies and international space agencies to represent interests of Australian astronomy.

Membership and appointments process

- The Space Science Leads Committee will be appointed by the AAL Board in the open process of nominations advertised to the astronomy community
- The Chair and other members will be appointed by a recommendation of the AAL Board.
- The Committee shall contain between four and five members.
- Members will have expertise/interests in space astronomy programs, and large and complex space industry projects.
- The majority of members are to be from institutions supporting Australian space programs.
- Membership composition shall be in accordance with AAL aims for institutional, geographical, career stage and gender diversity across its advisory committees.
- The normal term will be for 24 months, with a range of 18-30 months appointments being made if required in order to stagger them.
- The Chair and Committee members agree to abide by the AAL Code of Conduct and other guidelines.

Meetings

The Space Science Leads Committee will meet at least twice a year two to three weeks before AAL Board meeting. These meetings may be carried out by videoconference or in person.

Quarterly Updates shall be circulated by the Chair of the Committee to the relevant AAL staff for consideration by the AAL Board. If any issues arise requiring urgent attention, the Chair will call an ad hoc meeting of the Committee.