

VESPA: access and distribution of Solar System data in the Virtual Observatory

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VESPA (Virtual European Solar and Planetary Access) is a data infrastructure for the Solar System developed in the highly successful Europlanet-2020 and Europlanet-2024 Research Infrastructure programmes.

Its goal is two-fold: to provide easy access to existing data in the whole field of Solar System studies, including heliophysics; to propose to data providers a light and easy solution to make their data available to the community. In this context, data providers are not only agencies but also research teams, e. g., those who committed to provide Open Science access to their data in the frame of a research contract — standard procedures have been identified to this purpose.

VESPA is essentially an extension of the astronomical Virtual Observatory to Solar System data, and reuses its basic mechanisms. VO tools (Aladin, CASSIS, TOPCAT...) have also been extended to support planetary science and heliophysics use cases.

VESPA main portal is accessible here: <https://vespa.obspm.fr/>