



Newsletter 2024-2

June 2024

Word from the chair

Dear NVR members,

We are already almost halfway through 2024, and with this letter, I would like to inform you about the latest events and planned activities.

On March 12, the NVR organized a special film night at the law faculty of Leiden University. The title of the film was 'Goodnight Oppy,' and the film (105 minutes) provided a fantastic portrayal of the key players involved in the development, launch, and operations of the two Mars rovers Opportunity and Spirit. The planned lifespan of these rovers was 90 days, but the actual lifespan was 6 years for Spirit and nearly 15 years for Opportunity.



On May 7, we organized a special evening at the TU in Delft where the documentary about the first Dutch satellite (ANS) was shown. This satellite was launched on August 30, 1974, in California, and the documentary beautifully depicted the approval, development, and significant importance of this satellite for the Dutch space sector. Additionally, it highlighted how the leading role of the Netherlands in the field of astronomy was shaped. The evening was co-organized with the National Space Museum (NRM). Zeholy Pronk and Ronald Klompe from the NRM provided extensive answers to the many questions. It was an interesting and successful evening.





Netherlands Institute for Space Research



registrations was limited, and it is no longer possible to sign up for this visit.

Our next company visit is scheduled for June 6 at the new [SRON](#) location in Leiden. Presentations on the instruments developed by SRON for Earth observation and astrophysics will be given by SRON employees, and there will also be a tour for visiting the SRON facilities. Unfortunately, the number of

The General Assembly (ALV) will take place on Tuesday, June 18, at the Law Faculty of the Leiden University. The meeting will be held in the Lorentz Room, where Einstein once gave lectures. The invitation to the members was sent on May 27, and members can register to attend the General Assembly by June 11, using this [registration form](#).

During the week of September 30 to October 6, 100 astronauts will be coming to the Netherlands. The ASE (Association of Space Explorers) is holding their annual meeting in our country this year, and it promises to be a very interesting week filled with exciting events focused on human spaceflight. André Kuipers has made it possible for this event to be held in the Netherlands and, as the host, has put together a fantastic program in collaboration with the ASE.

One of the activities is the premiere of the film '[Beyond – Ode to the Earth](#)', marking André Kuipers' directorial debut. During the premiere, which will take place at the Ziggo Dome on Friday, October 4, all 100 astronauts will be present. The NVR has managed to reserve a limited number of tickets (in four different categories) and these are being offered to NVR members (including one guest) at a 30% discount. More information about the event can be found on our [website](#).



An extensive interview with André Kuipers is scheduled for the magazine Ruimtevaart (edition 2024/2). Other interviews planned include one with ESA Director Dietmar Pilz about his new role as Director and Head of Establishment ESTEC, and one with Toni Tolker-Nielsen, Director of Space Transportation, regarding the significant year marked by the launches of Ariane 6 and VEGA-C.

As you know, we conducted a survey among our members with around 40 questions. We are very grateful to the members who participated in the survey. We are currently analyzing the results, and the initial conclusions will be shared during the General Members Meeting (ALV). Subsequently, the board will incorporate the recommendations and conclusions into a new policy plan. The implementation of this policy plan requires that there are sufficient board and committee members to translate many of the recommendations into actions.

Finally, I would like to once again call on members to apply for a position in the board and for [various other open positions within the NVR committees](#). Specifically, in the areas of Website & IT, and Communication & Social Media, the association has room for knowledgeable individuals who want to contribute to our organization. As is the case with many associations and organizations after the corona period, it is difficult to find people for board or committee tasks, which jeopardizes the organization of many activities. It would be greatly appreciated if members interested in these roles would apply by sending an email with their background and preferred positions in the board/committees to secretariaat@ruimtevaart-nvr.nl.



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