

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
VICE CHANCELLOR**



**THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY**

YOUR REF:

OUR REF:

30th May 2023

**Professor Avi Loeb,
Director of the Institute for Theory & Computation,
Head of the Galileo Project,
Harvard University
USA**

**Private Mail Bag
Lae, Morobe Province 411
Papua New Guinea**

**Telephone : +(675) 473 4999
: +(675) 473 4201
Facsimile : +(675) 475 7667
: +(675) 475 7775**

Dear Professor Loeb,

RE: Collect fragments from the first interstellar meteor CNEOS 2014-01-08, which landed on the ocean floor off the coast of Manus Island, PNG.

Thank you for expressing your desire to work with PNG University of Technology on this research cruise to Manus Island. The geology section of the Mining Engineering Department and the Environmental Management & Research Centre at PNG University of Technology fully supports the research work that will be undertaken by M.V. TWL Silver Star that plans to collect small sand particles of meteor designated as CNEOS-2014-01-08 that disintegrated when entering the earth's atmosphere above Manus Island. These small fragments are of significant interest to the International Astronomy Community because these minute fragments represent first materials known to have originated from outside our solar system.

The objectives and outcomes of the M.V. TWL Silver Star research cruise are critically aligned with the research interest of the Mining Engineering department and Environmental Research and Management centre. The outcomes are most likely to provide the most significant astronomical discoveries ever made, and PNG will be at the very forefront of this exciting event. The samples collected can also be used for both geochemical and petrographic analysis and results can be jointly published in refereed journals. This collaboration will also provide excellent research opportunities and networking with notable research scholars at Harvard University. The PNG University of Technology through the Mining Engineering Department and Environmental Research and Management Centre strongly supports and will be the contact point in Papua New Guinea for Research Vessel M.V. TWL Silver Star research cruise.

If there are any queries regarding this cruise, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Jim Lem, Head of Mining Engineering Department on 473 4361 or email address jim.lem@pnuot.ac.pg.

Thank you very much for your understanding and look forward to this collaborative research opportunity.

Your sincerely



Professor Ora Renagi, OL
Vice Chancellor,
PNG University of Technology

cc: Professor Shamsul Akanda – PVC Academic
Dr Jim Lem - HOD Mining Engineering Department
Dr Patrick Michael – Acting Director ERMC