

## APPENDIX C. PLANETARY SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM

### C.1 OVERVIEW

The Planetary Science Research Program supports investigations of all classes of objects in the Solar System, except the Earth and Sun, consistent with the strategy for Solar System Exploration embodied in the *Solar System Roadmap 2006* (available at <http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/multimedia/downloads.cfm>). A proposal submitted to any of the following programs in this section must present, within its scientific/technical/management section, a clear description of a specific scientific problem, a description of how the attack on this problem will be carried out, and a discussion of the relevance of the proposed research to NASA's current and/or future programs. Proposals whose intent or purpose is to extend or directly supplement investigations already selected for approved space flight missions are not appropriate for this NRA, and investigators who are members of science teams of ongoing missions must delineate clearly between their mission responsibilities and any research efforts proposed through this NRA. Furthermore, proposals that include analysis of data from planetary division space flight missions must use publicly available data released through the Planetary Data System (PDS) at <http://pds.jpl.nasa.gov/>. Proposals that utilize any data from planetary division space flight missions, in any amount, that is not yet publicly available on the PDS will not be considered.

Changes in the Planetary Science Research Program for the ROSES 2008 solicitation are summarized below:

1. Proposals may now be longer than 3 years. This varies by program element, and proposers should look at each program element for further details.
2. The former Discovery Data Analysis program has been expanded and renamed to the Planetary Mission Data Analysis Program. This now includes the opportunity to propose investigations utilizing a wider range of planetary data. Proposers are referred to Appendix C.11 for further details.
3. A new section entitled Jupiter Data Analysis has been added. This includes and broadens the scope of the New Horizons at Jupiter Data Analysis program from ROSES 2007.
4. The Planetary Astronomy solicitation now includes opportunities for investigations that utilize sounding rockets or balloons. Further details are found in Appendix C.5.
5. The Mars Instrument Development project (Appendix C.14) and the In-Space Propulsion program (Appendix C.21) will not be solicited in 2008.

A brief description of each program element offered in the Planetary Science Research Program is given below. The intent of these summary statements is to give the prospective proposer a brief overview. A detailed description of the types of research supported by each program element can be found in the Scope of Program section of the respective program element description.

The Cosmochemistry Program supports investigations of a variety of extraterrestrial materials (meteorites, cosmic dust, and lunar samples) that are aimed at understanding the geochemistry of the Solar System bodies (planets, satellites including the Earth's Moon, and small Solar System bodies). (Appendix C.2)

The goal of the Sample Return Laboratory Instrument and Data Analysis Program is to maximize the scientific return from extraterrestrial samples through development of laboratory instrumentation and advanced analytical techniques. (Appendix C.3)

The Planetary Geology and Geophysics program supports scientific investigations of the planetary surfaces and interiors, satellites (including the Moon), satellite and ring systems, and smaller Solar System bodies such as asteroids and comets. (Appendix C.4)

The NASA Planetary Astronomy program has been expanded in ROSES 2008 to support both ground-based astronomical observations and suborbital investigations involving sounding rockets or balloons. Proposals are solicited for observations over the entire range of wavelengths from the ultraviolet to radio that contribute to the understanding of the general properties and evolution of the Solar System, its planets, their satellites, and of asteroids and comets. (Appendix C.5)

The Planetary Atmospheres program supports scientific investigations that contribute to the understanding of the origins and evolution of the atmospheres of planets and their satellites and of comets. Its broad objectives include the determination of compositions, dynamics, energetics, and chemical behaviors of planetary atmospheres. (Appendix C.6)

The Outer Planets Research program supports diverse scientific investigations that contribute to the understanding of the giant planets in the outer Solar System, as well as the smaller solid bodies including comets, asteroids, and the Kuiper Belt. (Appendix C.7)

The goal of the Lunar Advanced Science and Exploration Research program is to support and enhance lunar basic science and lunar exploration science as part of the Vision for Space Exploration's return to the Moon initiative. (Appendix C.8)

The Jupiter Data Analysis Program is a new program in 2008 and it is designed to enhance the return of the Jupiter science data obtained by the New Horizons spacecraft, as well as the Voyager, Galileo, and Cassini spacecraft, by means of a broad scientific participation in the analysis and interpretation of the data returned by these missions. (Appendix C.9)

The objective of the Cassini Data Analysis Program is to enhance the scientific return of the Cassini mission by broadening the scientific participation in the analysis and interpretation of the data returned by the mission. (Appendix C.10)

The objective of the Planetary Data Analysis Program, which replaces the Discovery Data Analysis Program, is to enhance the scientific return of completed Planetary Science Division missions by broadening the scientific participation in the analysis of data and

samples collected by those missions. The PMDAP is intended complement and not to overlap other active data analysis programs. (Appendix C.11)

The objective of the Mars Data Analysis Program is to enhance the scientific return from the Mars Pathfinder, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey, and Mars Exploration Rover missions by broadening scientific participation in the analysis of their respective data sets and to fund high-priority areas of research that support planning for future Mars missions. (Appendix C.12)

The Mars Fundamental Research Program seeks to sponsor the best and most innovative scientific research concerning atmospheric, climatological, and geologic processes on Mars and offers opportunities for Mars research beyond that available from analysis of spacecraft data alone. (Appendix C.13)

The Mars Instrument Development Project will not be solicited in ROSES 2008. (Appendix C.14)

The Mars Technology Project seeks to ensure that appropriate spacecraft technologies are available in a sufficiently mature state to support the challenges of the Mars Exploration Program and they are ready for incorporation into future mission systems. (Appendix C.15)

The Planetary Instrument Definition and Development program supports the advancement of spacecraft-based instrument technology that shows promise for use in scientific investigations on future planetary missions. (Appendix C.16)

The goal of NASA's Astrobiology: Exobiology and Evolutionary Biology program is to understand the origin, evolution, distribution, and future of life in the Universe. Research is centered on the origin and early evolution of life, the potential of life to adapt to different environments, and the implications for life elsewhere. (Appendix C.17)

Planetary Protection Research is aimed at the numerous areas of research in exobiology that have implications for the prevention of contamination of extraterrestrial environments by terrestrial organisms carried by spacecraft launched from Earth and, conversely, for understanding the potential hazards associated with possible extraterrestrial organisms that could be brought to Earth by sample-return missions. Research is required to allow NASA to understand the potential for both forward and backward contamination, as well as to set standards in these areas for spacecraft preparation and operating procedures and for returned-sample analysis. (Appendix C.18)

The Astrobiology Science and Technology Instrument Development program element requests proposals to develop instrumentation capabilities that will help meet Astrobiology science requirements on future space flight missions, as well as unique Astrobiology science objectives on Earth. (Appendix C.19)

The Astrobiology Science and Technology for Exploring Planets program solicits proposals for investigations to explore the Earth's extreme environments in order to develop a sound technical and scientific basis to search for life on other planets. (Appendix C.20)

The In-Space Propulsion program will not be solicited in 2008. The goal of the In-Space Propulsion program is to develop advanced propulsion technologies for use beyond Earth orbit that reduce trip times, mass, and/or cost associated with or enable NASA science missions to the outer planets, satellites, small bodies, and other Solar System destinations. (Appendix C.21)

The Fellowships for Early Career Researchers have been established to facilitate the integration of new Planetary Science Division researchers into the established research funding programs and to provide tools and experience useful when searching for a more advanced (*i.e.*, tenure-track, civil servant, or equivalent) position. (Appendix C.22) Participation is limited to proposers to the following Planetary Science Division science research programs offered in this solicitation:

- Cosmochemistry (Appendix C.2);
- Planetary Geology and Geophysics (Appendix C.4);
- Planetary Astronomy (Appendix C.5);
- Planetary Atmospheres (Appendix C.6);
- Outer Planets Research (Appendix C.7);
- Lunar Advanced Science and Exploration Research (Appendix C.8);
- Planetary Mission Data Analysis (Appendix C.11);
- Mars Data Analysis (Appendix C.12);
- Mars Fundamental Research (Appendix C.13); and
- Astrobiology: Exobiology and Evolutionary Biology (Appendix C.17).

The Planetary Major Equipment program allows proposals for upgrading the analytical, computational, telescopic, and other instrumentation required by investigations sponsored by the following Planetary Science Division's science research programs offered in this solicitation:

- Cosmochemistry (Appendix C.2);
- Planetary Geology and Geophysics (Appendix C.4);
- Planetary Astronomy (Appendix C.5);
- Planetary Atmospheres (Appendix C.6);
- Outer Planets Research (Appendix C.7);
- Lunar Advanced Science and Exploration Research (Appendix C.8);
- Mars Fundamental Research (Appendix C.13);
- Astrobiology: Exobiology and Evolutionary Biology (Appendix C.17);
- Origins of Solar Systems (Appendix E.3); and
- Near Earth Object Observations (Appendix E.4).

New instrumentation may also be proposed. Planetary Major Equipment proposals may be submitted only in conjunction with new science research proposals to this solicitation or as an augmentation to planetary science multiple year awards. (Appendix C.23)

The Moon and Mars Analog Mission Activities program addresses the need for integrated interdisciplinary field experiments as an integral part of preparation for planned human and robotic missions to the Moon and Mars. The focus of this program is on providing real scientific investigations, scientific input, and science operations constraints in the context of existing large scale technology development and testing activities being carried out by the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate. (Appendix C.24)

The Origins of Solar Systems program solicits basic research proposals to conduct scientific investigations related to understanding the formation and early evolution of planetary systems and to provide the fundamental research and analysis necessary to detect and characterize other planetary systems. These investigations may involve analytical and numerical modeling, laboratory research, and observational studies in the following areas: star formation and the relationship to planetary system formation, solar nebula processes, accumulation and dynamical evolution, analysis of primitive materials, and the detection and characterization of other planetary systems. (Appendix E.3).

The Near Earth Object (NEO) Observation program supports investigations whose primary objectives are to inventory and characterize the population of NEOs which may represent a hazard for impacting the Earth with the potential to significantly affect its climate and biosphere. As this is of interest to both the Earth Science and Planetary Science Research Programs, beginning in 2008 this program is solicited as a cross-divisional element between those two divisions. (Appendix E.4)

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