National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of STEM Engagement

Appendix A – FY 2022 Areas of Research Interests

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

FY 2022 Research Interests

NASA Headquarters
Office of STEM Engagement
Washington, DC 20546-0001

DRAFT

Appendix A: NASA Mission Directorates and Center Alignment

NASA's Mission *to drive advances in science, technology, aeronautics, and space exploration to enhance knowledge, education, innovation, economic vitality and stewardship of Earth*, draws support from four Mission Directorates, nine NASA Centers, and JPL, each with a specific responsibility.

A.1 Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) conducts high-quality, cutting-edge research and flight tests that generate innovative concepts, tools, and technologies to enable revolutionary advances in our Nation's future aircraft, as well as in the airspace in which they will fly.

NASA Aeronautics is partnering with industry and academia to accomplish the aviation community's aggressive carbon reduction goals. Through collective work in three areas -- advanced vehicle technologies, efficient airline operations and sustainable aviation fuels – NASA, in partnership with the aviation community, aims to reduce carbon emissions from aviation by half by 2050, compared to 2005, and potentially achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.
ARMD's current major missions include:

- Sustainable Aviation
- High Speed Commercial Flight
- Advanced Air Mobility
- Future Airspace
- Transformative Tools

Additional information on the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) can be found at: https://www.nasa.gov/aeroresearch and in ARMD's Strategic Implementation plan that can be found at: https://www.nasa.gov/aeroresearch/strategy.

Areas of Interest - POC: Dave Berger, dave.e.berger@nasa.gov

Proposers are directed to the following:

- ARMD Programs: https://www.nasa.gov/aeroresearch/programs
- The ARMD current year version of the NASA Research Announcement (NRA) entitled, "Research Opportunities in Aeronautics (ROA)" is posted on the NSPIRES web site at http://nspires.nasaprs.com (*Key word:* Aeronautics). This solicitation provides a complete range of ARMD research interests.

A.2 Human Exploration & Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD)

Human Exploration & Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) provides the Agency with leadership and management of NASA space operations related to human exploration in and beyond low-Earth orbit. HEO also oversees low-level requirements development, policy, and programmatic oversight. The International Space Station, currently orbiting the Earth with a crew of six, represents the NASA exploration activities in low-Earth orbit. Exploration activities beyond low Earth orbit include the management of Commercial Space Transportation, Exploration Systems Development, Human Space Flight Capabilities, and Advanced Exploration Systems. The directorate is similarly responsible for Agency leadership and management of NASA space operations related to Launch Services, Space Transportation, and Space Communications in support of both human and robotic exploration programs. Additional information on the Human Exploration & Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) can be found at: (http://www.nasa.gov/directorates/heo/home/index.html)

Areas of Interest - POC: Marc Timm, marc.g.timm@nasa.gov

Human Research Program

The Human Research Program (HRP) is focused on investigating and mitigating the highest risks to human health and performance in order to enable safe, reliable, and productive human space exploration. The HRP budget enables NASA to resolve health risks in order for humans to safely live and work on missions in the inner solar system. HRP conducts research, develops countermeasures, and undertakes technology development to address human health risks in space and ensure compliance with NASA's health, medical, human performance, and environmental standards.

Engineering Research

- Spacecraft: Guidance, navigation and control; thermal; electrical; structures; software; avionics; displays; high speed re-entry; modeling; power systems; interoperability/commonality; advanced spacecraft materials; crew/vehicle health monitoring; life support.
- Propulsion: Propulsion methods that will utilize materials found on the moon or Mars, "green" propellants, on-orbit propellant storage, motors, testing, fuels, manufacturing, soft landing, throttle-able propellants, high performance, and descent.
- Robotic Systems for Precursor Near Earth Asteroid (NEA) Missions: Navigation and proximity operations systems; hazard detection; techniques for interacting and anchoring with Near Earth Asteroids; methods of remote and interactive characterization of Near Earth Asteroid (NEA) environments, composition and structural properties; robotics (specifically environmental scouting prior to human arrival and later to assist astronauts with NEA exploration); environmental analysis; radiation protection; spacecraft autonomy, enhanced methods of NEA characterization from earth-based observation.
- Robotic Systems for Lunar Precursor Missions: Precision landing and hazard avoidance hardware and software; high-bandwidth communication; in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) and prospecting; navigation systems; robotics (specifically environmental scouting prior to human arrival, and to assist astronaut with surface exploration); environmental analysis, radiation protection.
- Data and Visualization Systems for Exploration: Area focus on turning precursor mission data into meaningful engineering knowledge for system design and mission planning of lunar surface and NEAs. Visualization and data display; interactive data manipulation and sharing; mapping and data layering including coordinate transformations for irregular shaped NEAs; modeling of lighting and thermal environments; simulation of environmental interactions including proximity operations in irregular micro-G gravity fields and physical stability of weakly bound NEAs.
- Research and technology development areas in HEOMD support launch vehicles, space communications, and the International Space Station. Examples of research and technology development areas (and the associated lead NASA Center) with great potential include:
  - *Processing and Operations*
    - Crew Health and Safety Including Medical Operations (Johnson Space Center (JSC))
    - In-helmet Speech Audio Systems and Technologies (Glenn Research Center (GRC))

    - Vehicle Integration and Ground Processing (Kennedy Space Center (KSC))
    - Mission Operations (Ames Research Center (ARC))
    - Portable Life Support Systems (JSC)
    - Pressure Garments and Gloves (JSC)
    - Air Revitalization Technologies (ARC)
    - In-Space Waste Processing Technologies (JSC)
    - Cryogenic Fluids Management Systems (GRC)
- *Space Communications and Navigation*
    - Coding, Modulation, and Compression (Goddard Spaceflight Center (GSFC)
    - Precision Spacecraft & Lunar/Planetary Surface Navigation and Tracking (GSFC)
    - Communication for Space-Based Range (GSFC)
    - Antenna Technology (Glenn Research Center (GRC))
    - Reconfigurable/Reprogrammable Communication Systems (GRC)
    - Miniaturized Digital EVA Radio (JSC)
    - Transformational Communications Technology (GRC)
    - Long Range Optical Telecommunications (Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL))
    - Long Range Space RF Telecommunications (JPL)
    - Surface Networks and Orbit Access Links (GRC)
    - Software for Space Communications Infrastructure Operations (JPL)
    - TDRS transponders for launch vehicle applications that support space communication and launch services (GRC)
- *Space Transportation*
    - Optical Tracking and Image Analysis (KSC)
    - Space Transportation Propulsion System and Test Facility Requirements and Instrumentation (Stennis Space Center (SSC)
    - Automated Collection and Transfer of Launch Range Surveillance/Intrusion Data (KSC)
    - Technology tools to assess secondary payload capability with launch vehicles (KSC)
    - Spacecraft Charging/Plasma Interactions (Environment definition & arcing mitigation) (Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)
- *Commercial Space Capabilities*
    - The goal of this area is to support research, development, and commercial adoption of technologies of interest to the U.S. spaceflight industry to further their space-related capabilities.
    - These include capabilities for Moon, Mars, and Earth orbit. Such efforts are in pursuit of the goals of the National Space Policy and NASA's strategic plans, to foster developments that will lead to education and job growth in science and engineering, and spur economic growth as capabilities for new space markets are created.
    - U.S. commercial spaceflight industry interests naturally vary by company. Proposers are encouraged to determine what those interests are by engagement with such companies in various ways, and such interests may also be reflected in the efforts of various NASA partnerships.
    - Proposals should discuss how the effort aligns with U.S. commercial spaceflight company interest(s), and identify potential alignments with NASA interests.

A.2.1 Office of Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO)
Areas Of Research Interest:
POC: Dr Victor Schneider, vschneider@nasa.gov P: 202.258.3645

POC2: Dr James D. Polk; E: james.d.polk@nasa.gov, P: 202.358.1959

- Development and elaboration of Functional aids and testing paradigms to measure activity for use by parastronauts during spaceflight. This may include egressing and exiting space capsules and donning and doffing spacesuits and other aids for parastronauts. The European Space Agency is establishing a parastronaut feasibility project. Since NASA offers its international partners access to NASA supported spacecraft and the International Space Station, NASA wants to establish appropriate functional testing measures to determine the time it takes fit astronaut-like subjects compared to fit parastronaut subjects to egress and exit simulated space capsules and simulated donning and doffing spacesuit. Research proposals are sought to establish appropriate functional testing.

- Evaluation space capsule and spacesuit activity in stable and fit lower or upper extremity amputees and compare their responses to non-amputee fit individuals. The European Space Agency is establishing a parastronaut feasibility project. Since NASA offers its international partners access to NASA supported spacecraft and the International Space Station, NASA wants to obtain research data measuring the time it takes fit astronaut-like subjects compared to fit parastronaut subject to egress and exit simulated space capsules and simulated donning and doffing spacesuit. Research proposals are sought to obtain data measuring the functional testing indicated

A.3 Science Mission Directorate (SMD)

Science Mission Directorate (SMD) leads the Agency in five areas of research: Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS), Heliophysics, Earth Science, Planetary Science, and Astrophysics. SMD, using the vantage point of space to achieve with the science community and our partners a deep scientific understanding of our planet, other planets and solar system bodies, the interplanetary environment, the Sun and its effects on the solar system, and the universe beyond. In so doing, we lay the intellectual foundation for the robotic and human expeditions of the future while meeting today's needs for scientific information to address national concerns, such as climate change and space weather. SMD's high-level strategic objectives are presented in the 2018 NASA Strategic Plan. Detailed plans by science area corresponding to the science divisions of SMD: Heliophysics, Earth Science, Planetary Science, and Astrophysics appear in *SCIENCE 2020-2024: A Vision for Scientific Excellence (the 2020 Science Plan)*", which is still available at http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/. The best expression of specific research topics of interest to each Division within SMD are represented in by the topics listed in SMD's "ROSES" research solicitation, see ROSES-2021 and the text in the Division research overviews of ROSES, i.e.:

Astrophysics Research Program Overview
Biological and Physical Sciences Research Overview
Cross Division Research Overview
Earth Science Research Overview
Heliophysics Research Program Overview
Planetary Science Research Program Overview
Table of ROSES-2021 program elements by Division/Topic:
https://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2021table3
Table of ROSES-2021 program elements by due date:
https://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2021table2

Please note, even if particular topic is not solicited in ROSES this year, if it was solicited via ROSES in the past, it is still a topic of interest and eligible for this solicitation. Additional information about the Science Mission Directorate may be found at: http://nasascience.nasa.gov.

SMD POC: Kristen Erickson kristen.erickson@nasa.gov

Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS)

In July 2020, NASA's biological and physical sciences research was transferred from the Space Life and Physical Sciences Research & Applications (SLPSRA) Division in the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) into the Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS) Division in the Science Mission Directorate (SMD).

The mission of BPS is two-pronged:

- Pioneer scientific discovery in and beyond low Earth orbit to drive advances in science, technology, and space exploration to enhance knowledge, education, innovation, and economic vitality
- Enable human spaceflight exploration to expand the frontiers of knowledge, capability, and opportunity in space

Execution of this mission requires both scientific research and technology development.

BPS administers NASA's:

- Space Biology Program, which solicits and conducts research to understand how biological systems accommodate to spaceflight environments
- Physical Sciences Program, which solicits and conducts research to understand how physical systems respond to spaceflight environments, particularly weightlessness

BPS partners with the research community and a wide range of organizations to accomplish its mission. Grants to academic, commercial and government laboratories are the core of BPS's research and technology development efforts.

Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

Space Biology Program

The Space Biology Program within NASA's Biological and Physical Sciences Division focuses on pioneering scientific discovery and enabling human spaceflight exploration. Research in space biology has the following goals:

- To effectively use microgravity, radiation, and the other characteristics of the space environment to enhance our understanding of fundamental biological processes.
- To develop the scientific and technological foundations for a safe, productive human presence in space for extended periods and in preparation for exploration.
- To apply this knowledge and technology to improve our nation's competitiveness, education, and the quality of life on Earth.

Research proposals are being solicited on the following topics:

- Organismal Biology – responses of whole organisms and their systems to ionizing radiation and/or other spaceflight-relevant stressors such as altered gravity simulators.
    - These will be ground-based studies.

- Ionizing radiation and altered gravity regimes (partial gravity and microgravity) are a hallmark of the deep space environment. These stressors may cause direct physiological changes in the organisms or result in indirect effects such as loss of sleep in some organisms. Studies should effectively delineate the biological effects of these factors, separately and/or in combination where possible. See information on radiation facilities below.
- Understand the mechanistic bases of the changes induced in these unique environments, preferably from a systems biology perspective, and could include genetic, cellular, or molecular biological effects.

- Advanced *in vitro* models: 3D Tissues and Tissue Chips or Microphysiological Systems – Using advanced *in vitro* models to investigate biological mechanisms associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.
    - These will be ground-based studies.
    - Ionizing radiation, specifically space radiation, is a concern for astronauts on deep space long duration missions. Understanding the mechanisms of damage induced by ionizing radiation will be important to inform risks to astronauts and develop effective countermeasures. Studies proposing ionizing radiation should use space relevant radiation exposures and doses. See information on radiation facilities below.

    Information on radiation facilities:
    - The NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) is an irradiation facility capable of supplying particles from protons to gold with primary energies in the range of 50-2500 MeV for protons and 50-1100 MeV/n for high-mass, high-energy (HZE) particles. Selection of beam species and energies for experimental periods will be made by NASA officials in consultation with scientists proposing experiments for these beams. Activities at the NSRL are a joint effort of Brookhaven National Laboratory's Collider-Accelerator Department, providing accelerated particle beams, and the Biosciences Department, providing experimental area support, animal care, and cell and biology laboratories. The NSRL includes irradiation stations, beam controls, and laboratory facilities required for most radiobiological investigations. Additional information about NSRL may be found at https://www.bnl.gov/nsrl/.
    - Colorado State University low dose rate neutron facility is another ionizing radiation facility that provides low dose rate neutrons. Details can be found at: https://three.jsc.nasa.gov under "IN THE NEWS– JULY 2018" or by email to michael.weil@colostate.edu. Gamma-rays (Cs or Co) should be used as the reference radiation for studies. Significant justification needs to be provided to use X-rays with energies below 300 peak kilovoltage (kVp) as a reference radiation. Gamma controls must be completed at BNL for comparison with heavy charged particles, specifically for the calculation of relative biological effectiveness (RBE). Gamma ray exposures can also be performed at Colorado State University.

All proposals submitted to the EPSCoR Research Announcement are required to include a data management plan (DMP) that describes how data generated through the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved, including timeframe, or explain why data sharing and/or preservation are not possible or scientifically appropriate, or why the data need not be made publicly available. Specifically, for this Research Announcement, award recipients are required to upload all relevant data in the GeneLab Data Systems (https://genelab.nasa.gov), as well as make all analytical models, tools, and software produced under the funded research, as well as related documentation, available to NASA. Furthermore, articles published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and papers published in peer-reviewed conference proceedings, should be made publicly accessible via NASA's PubSpace website (Submit to PubSpace - Scientific and Technical Information Program (nasa.gov)).

Further information for the Space Biology program are available at:
https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/programs/space-biology
https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/documents

Physical Science Program

The Physical Science Research Program conducts fundamental and applied research to advance scientific knowledge, to improve space systems, and to advance technologies that may produce new products offering benefits on Earth. Space offers unique advantages for experimental research in the physical sciences. NASA supports research that uses to space environment to make significant scientific advances. Many of NASA's experiments in the physical sciences reveal how physical systems respond to the near absence of gravity. Forces that on Earth are small compared to gravity can dominate system behavior in space. Understanding the consequences is a critical aspect of space system design. Research in physical sciences spans from basic and applied research in the areas of:

- Fluid physics: two-phase flow, boiling, condensation, heat pipes, capillary and interfacial phenomena; cryogenic fluid storage and transfer
- Combustion science: spacecraft fire safety, solids, liquids and gasses, transcritical combustion, supercritical reacting fluids, and soot formation;
- Materials science: solidification in metal and alloys, crystal growth, electronic materials, glasses and ceramics, granular materials, extraction of material from regoliths;
- Complex Fluids: colloidal systems, emulsions, liquid crystals, polymer flows, foams and granular flows;
- Fundamental physics: space optical/atomic clocks, quantum test of equivalence principle, theory supporting space-based experiments in quantum entanglement, decoherence, cold atom physics, and dusty plasmas.

Areas of particular interest include:

- **Extraction of Materials from Regolith** - NASA is successfully advancing the mission of returning humans to the Lunar surface and establishing a long-term presence. Critical to success of sustaining a human presence on the Lunar surface is the utilization of natural resources. Extraction of materials (e.g. metals, glasses and water ice) from extra-terrestrial regolith and the subsequent use in manufacturing key infrastructure will enable humans to thrive on extra-terrestrial surfaces. The Physical Sciences Program requests research to develop and increase understanding of extraction techniques to generate useful materials (e.g. metals, glasses, water ice) from Lunar or Martian regolith.

  Proposed studies are expected to generate and test specific hypotheses to the extent possible in a terrestrial lab. Investigations should be proposed that would study one or more of the following topics:

- Refinement of existing techniques to extract materials from regolith.
- Development of new techniques for extraction of materials from regolith.
- Studies of the extracted material to determine its properties or to investigate novel ways of utilizing it to support NASA's exploration goals.
- Investigations to determine manufacturing processes using regolith or materials extracted from regolith to produce infrastructure and/or outfitting critical to sustaining life on extra-terrestrial surfaces.

It is expected that regolith simulant, or equivalent, will be used for the proposed experiments.

- **Metamaterials in Soft Matter -** Metamaterials have recently drawn the attention of soft-matter scientists and engineers with the possibility of designing metamaterials that have their functions governed, not by the specific substance out of which the material is constructed, but rather by its microstructure. Also, soft matter-based metamaterials possess unique physical properties, owing to their engineered structure, ranging from negative index material with regard to multitude of physical properties (e.g.- viscosity, refractive index, acoustics etc.). Some of the challenges that need to be answered are:
  - Development of novel soft-matter based metamaterials
  - Develop methodologies to encode multiple functions in soft-matter based metamaterials
  - Understand the scalability of active materials & metamaterials and how that affects multiple functionality

  In addition to laboratory experimentation of metamaterials, short duration microgravity experiments in drop towers or parabolic flights can be considered since metamaterial formation may involve phenomena such as phase separation, onset of interfacial instability, etc.

- **Oscillating Heat Pipes** - NASA has a growing need for improved passive thermal management of electronics, batteries, high capability sensors, power system heat rejection, etc. for future spacecraft and planetary habitat systems. Due to the potential to extract heat at significantly higher heat flux levels, oscillating heat pipes (OHP) offer the promise of significantly higher efficiencies compared to conventional heat pipes used on today's spacecraft. However, the underlying liquid-vapor fluid dynamics (distinct liquid plugs and vapor plugs), interfacial phenomena, and two-phase heat transfer in the pulsating flows of OHPs are not well understood. It is imperative that a physical model that can predict the performance of an OHP be developed. As a first step, NASA is seeking proposals for a highly instrumented, ground-based OHP experiment to provide insight into the mechanisms, fundamental processes and governing equations. The resulting high-fidelity data will be used for computational fluid dynamics model validation to better predict OHP performance and limits of operation. NASA is currently funding the development of an advanced OHP computer model at JPL. The experimental data from this project will be provided to the JPL OHP numerical modeling team.

Specifically, NASA is interested in fundamental experimental research to address some or all of the topics below. The list of needs is given in a somewhat prioritized order. Please note: all OHP proposals **must** include liquid film characterization.

- Liquid film characterization:
    - liquid film on the wall surrounding vapor plugs
    - dynamics and heat transfer of the liquid film trailing an advancing liquid slug in adiabatic, heated and cooled, slug plug flow. Establish a method to predict liquid film thickness in OHPs with given channel geometry and operational conditions. This may include direct or indirect measurement and theoretical modeling of the liquid film.
- Oscillation Characteristics: frequency, velocity, etc.
- Measurement of the ratio of the net heat transfer attributable to latent heat transfer as compared to that from sensible heat transfer.
- Nucleate boiling characterization, including frequency measurements, and physics in a closed isochoric system.
- Experimental research that supports or refutes the OHP operational limits published by Drolen and Smoot.[1] This includes the effect of viscous losses on OHP operation, the OHP sonic limit, the swept length limit where the amplitude of oscillation is significantly smaller than the evaporator length, the heat flux limit, and the vapor inertia limit which attempts to define the maximum flow velocity that the slug meniscus can support.
- Experimental and physical research into OHP startup including the effects of surface roughness and initial fluid distribution prior to startup

For any Physical Sciences proposal selected for award, including the three areas of particular interest ("Extraction of Materials from Regolith", "Metamaterials in Soft Matter", and "Oscillating Heat Pipes"), all data must be deposited in the Physical Sciences Informatics Database starting one year after award completion.

The two NASA GRC drop towers described below are also available to augment research investigations. These facilities are typically used to conduct combustion or fluid physics experiments. Please go to link for further information. The Points of Contact for each research area are:
Fluid Physics: John McQuillen, john.b.mcquillen@nasa.gov
Combustion Science: Dan Dietrich, daniel.l.dietrich@nasa.gov
Since there is a cost involved to use these drop towers, please contact the appropriate POC for cost estimates for your proposal.

2.2 s tower

https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/facilities/drop/

The 2.2 Second Drop Tower has been used for nearly 50 years by researchers from around the world to study the effects of microgravity on physical phenomena such as combustion

[1] B.L. Drolen and C.D. Smoot, "The Performance Limits of Oscillating Heat Pipes: Theory and Validation," Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer, 31, 4, 2017, pp. 920-936.

and fluid dynamics and to develop technology for future space missions. It provides rapid turnaround testing (up to 12 drops/day) of 2.2 seconds in duration.

5..2 s tower

https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/facilities/zero-g/

The Zero Gravity Research Facility is NASA's premier facility for ground based microgravity research, and the largest facility of its kind in the world. It provides researchers with a near weightless environment for a duration of 5.18 seconds. It has been primarily used for combustion and fluid physics investigations.

Implementing Centers: NASA's Physical Sciences Research Program is carried out at the Glenn Research Center (GRC), Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). Further information on physical sciences research is available at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/programs/physical-sciences

Implementing Centers: NASA's Physical Sciences Research Program is carried out at the Glenn Research Center (GRC), Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). Further information on physical sciences research is available at http://issresearchproject.nasa.gov/

Heliophysics Division

Heliophysics encompasses science that improves our understanding of fundamental physical processes throughout the solar system, and enables us to understand how the Sun, as the major driver of the energy throughout the solar system, impacts our technological society. The scope of heliophysics is vast, spanning from the Sun's interior to Earth's upper atmosphere, throughout interplanetary space, to the edges of the heliosphere, where the solar wind interacts with the local interstellar medium. Heliophysics incorporates studies of the interconnected elements in a single system that produces dynamic space weather and that evolves in response to solar, planetary, and interstellar conditions.

The Agency's strategic objective for heliophysics is to understand the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the solar system, including space weather. The heliophysics decadal survey conducted by the National Research Council (NRC), *Solar and Space Physics: A Science for a Technological Society* (*http://www.nap.edu/catalog/13060/solar-and-space-physics-a-science-for-a-technological-society*), articulates the scientific challenges for this field of study and recommends a slate of design reference missions to meet them, to culminate in the achievement of a predictive capability to aid human endeavors on Earth and in space. The fundamental science questions are:

- What causes the Sun to vary?
- How do the geospace, planetary space environments and the heliosphere respond?
- What are the impacts on humanity?

To answer these questions, the Heliophysics Division implements a program to achieve three overarching goals:

- Explore the physical processes in the space environment from the Sun to the Earth and throughout the solar system
- Advance our understanding of the connections that link the Sun, the Earth, planetary space environment, and the outer reaches of our solar system
- Develop the knowledge and capability to detect and predict extreme conditions in space to protect life and society and to safeguard human and robotic explorers beyond Earth

Further information on the objectives and goals of NASA's Heliophysics Program may be found in the *2014 Science Plan and Our Dynamic Space Environment: Heliophysics Science and Technology Roadmap for 2014-2033* (download PDF). The Heliophysics research program is described in Chapter 4.1 of the *SMD Science Plan 2014* available at http://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy/. The program supports theory, modeling, and data analysis utilizing remote sensing and *in situ* measurements from a fleet of missions; the Heliophysics System Observatory (HSO). Frequent CubeSats, suborbital rockets, balloons, and ground-based instruments add to the observational base. Investigations that develop new observables and technologies for heliophysics science are sought.

Supported research activities include projects that address understanding of the Sun and planetary space environments, including the origin, evolution, and interactions of space plasmas and electromagnetic fields throughout the heliosphere. The program seeks to characterize these phenomena on a broad range of spatial and temporal scales, to understand the fundamental processes that drive them, to understand how these processes combine to create space weather events, and to enable a capability for predicting future space weather events.

The program supports investigations of the Sun, including processes taking place throughout the solar interior and atmosphere and the evolution and cyclic activity of the Sun. It supports investigations of the origin and behavior of the solar wind, energetic particles, and magnetic fields in the heliosphere and their interaction with the Earth and other planets, as well as with the interstellar medium.

The program also supports investigations of the physics of magnetospheres, including their formation and fundamental interactions with plasmas, fields, and particles and the physics of the terrestrial mesosphere, thermosphere, ionosphere, and auroras, including the coupling of these phenomena to the lower atmosphere and magnetosphere. Proposers may also review the information in the ROSES-21 Heliophysics Research Program Overview for further information about the Heliophysics Research Program.

Earth Science Division

The overarching goal of NASA's Earth Science program is to develop a scientific understanding of Earth as a system. The Earth Science Division of the Science Mission Directorate (https://science.nasa.gov/earth-science) contributes to NASA's mission, in particular, Strategic Objective 1.1: Understanding The Sun, Earth, Solar System, And Universe. This strategic objective is motivated by the following key questions:

- How is the global Earth system changing?
- What causes these changes in the Earth system?
- How will the Earth system change in the future?
- How can Earth system science provide societal benefit?

These science questions translate into seven overarching science goals to guide the Earth Science Division's selection of investigations and other programmatic decisions:

- Advance the understanding of changes in the Earth's radiation balance, air quality, and the ozone layer that result from changes in atmospheric composition (Atmospheric Composition)
- Improve the capability to predict weather and extreme weather events (Weather)
- Detect and predict changes in Earth's ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles, including land cover, biodiversity, and the global carbon cycle (Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems)
- Enable better assessment and management of water quality and quantity to accurately predict how the global water cycle evolves in response to climate change (Water and Energy Cycle)
- Improve the ability to predict climate changes by better understanding the roles and interactions of the ocean, atmosphere, land and ice in the climate system (Climate Variability and Change)
- Characterize the dynamics of Earth's surface and interior, improving the capability to assess and respond to natural hazards and extreme events (Earth Surface and Interior)
- Further the use of Earth system science research to inform decisions and provide benefits to society

In applied sciences, the ESD encourages the use of data from NASA's Earth-observing satellites and airborne missions to tackle tough challenges and develop solutions that improve our daily lives. Specific areas of interest include efforts that help institutions and individuals make better decisions about our environment, food, water, health, and safety (see http://appliedsciences.nasa.gov). In technological research, the ESD aims to foster the creation and infusion of new technologies – such as data processing, interoperability, visualization, and analysis as well as autonomy, modeling, and mission architecture design – in order to enable new scientific measurements of the Earth system or reduce the cost of current observations (see http://esto.nasa.gov). The ESD also promotes innovative development in computing and information science and engineering of direct relevance to ESD. NASA makes Earth observation data and information widely available through the Earth Science Data System program, which is responsible for the stewardship, archival and distribution of open data for all users

The Earth Science Division (ESD) places particular emphasis on the investigators' ability to promote and increase the use of space-based remote sensing through the proposed research. Proposals with objectives connected to needs identified in most recent Decadal Survey (2017-2027) from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, *Thriving on our Changing Planet: A Decadal Strategy for Earth Observation from Space* are welcomed. (see https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24938/thriving-on-our-changing-planet-a-decadal-strategy-for-earth).

NASA's ability to view the Earth from a global perspective enables it to provide a broad, integrated set of uniformly high-quality data covering all parts of the planet. NASA shares this unique knowledge with the global community, including members of the science, government, industry, education, and policy-maker communities.

Planetary Science Division

The Planetary Science Research Program, managed by the Planetary Science Division, sponsors research that addresses the broad strategic objective to "Ascertain the content, origin, and evolution of the Solar System and the potential for life elsewhere." To pursue this objective, the Planetary Science Division has five science goals that guide the focus of the division's science research and technology development activities. As described in Chapter 4.3 of the SMD 2014 Science Plan (https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy), these are:

- Explore and observe the objects in the Solar System to understand how they formed and evolve.
- Advance the understanding of how the chemical and physical processes in the Solar System operate, interact and evolve.
- Explore and find locations where life could have existed or could exist today.
- Improve our understanding of the origin and evolution of life on Earth to guide our search for life elsewhere.
- Identify and characterize objects in the Solar System that pose threats to Earth or offer resources for human exploration.

In order to address these goals, the Planetary Research Program invites a wide range of planetary science and astrobiology investigations. Example topics include, but are not limited to:

- Investigations aimed at understanding the formation and evolution of the Solar System and (exo) planetary systems in general, and of the planetary bodies, satellites, and small bodies in these systems;
- Investigations aimed at understanding materials present, and processes occurring, in the early stages of Solar System history, including the protoplanetary disk;
- Investigations aimed at understanding planetary differentiation processes;
- Investigations of extraterrestrial materials, including meteorites, cosmic dust, presolar grains, and samples returned by the Apollo, Stardust, Genesis, and Hayabusa missions;
- Investigations of the properties of planets, satellites (including the Moon), satellite and ring systems, and smaller Solar System bodies such as asteroids and comets;
- Investigations of the coupling of a planetary body's intrinsic magnetic field, atmosphere, surface, and interior with each other, with other planetary bodies, and with the local plasma environment;
- Investigations into the origins, evolution, and properties of the atmospheres of planetary bodies (including satellites, small bodies, and exoplanets);
- Investigations that use knowledge of the history of the Earth and the life upon it as a guide for determining the processes and conditions that create and maintain habitable environments and to search for ancient and contemporary habitable environments and explore the possibility of extant life beyond the Earth;
- Investigations into the origin and early evolution of life, the potential of life to adapt to different environments, and the implications for life elsewhere;
- Investigations that provide the fundamental research and analysis necessary to characterize exoplanetary systems;
- Investigations related to understanding the chemistry, astrobiology, dynamics, and energetics of exoplanetary systems;
- Astronomical observations of our Solar System that contribute to the understanding of the nature and evolution of the Solar System and its individual constituents;
- Investigations to inventory and characterize the population of Near Earth Objects (NEOs) or mitigate the risk of NEOs impacting the Earth;
- Investigations into the potential for both forward and backward contamination during planetary exploration, methods to minimize such contamination, and standards in these areas for spacecraft preparation and operating procedures;
- Investigations which enhance the scientific return of NASA Planetary Science Division missions through the analysis of data collected by those missions;

- Advancement of laboratory- or spacecraft-based (including small satellites, e.g., CubeSats) instrument technology that shows promise for use in scientific investigations on future planetary missions; and
- Analog studies, laboratory experiments, or fieldwork to increase our understanding of Solar System bodies or processes and/or to prepare for future missions.

Proposers may also review the information in the ROSES-2021 Planetary Science Research Program Overview for further information about the Planetary Science Research Program.

Astrophysics Division

NASA's strategic objective in astrophysics is to discover how the universe works, explore how it began and evolved, and search for life on planets around other stars. Three broad scientific questions flow from this objective:

- How does the universe work?
- How did we get here?
- Are we alone?

Each of these questions is accompanied by a science goal that shapes the Astrophysics Division's efforts towards fulfilling NASA's strategic objective:

- Probe the origin and destiny of our universe, including the nature of black holes, dark energy, dark matter and gravity
- Explore the origin and evolution of the galaxies, stars and planets that make up our universe
- Discover and study planets around other stars, and explore whether they could harbor life

In order to address these Astrophysics goals, the Astrophysics Research Analysis and Technology Program invites a wide range of astrophysics science investigations from space that can be broadly placed in the following categories.

(i) The development of new technology covering all wavelengths and fundamental particles, that can be applied to future space flight missions. This includes, but is not limited to, detector development, and optical components such as primary or secondary mirrors, coatings, gratings, filters, and spectrographs.

(ii) New technologies and techniques that may be tested by flying them on suborbital platforms such as rockets and balloons that are developed and launched by commercial suborbital flight providers or from NASA's launch range facilities, or by flying them on small and innovative orbital platforms such as cubesats.

(iii) Studies in laboratory astrophysics. Examples of these studies could include atomic and molecular data and properties of plasmas explored under conditions approximating those of astrophysical environments.

(iv) Theoretical studies and simulations that advance the goals of the astrophysics program

(v) Analysis of data that could lead to original discoveries from space astrophysics missions. This could include the compilations of catalogs, statistical studies, algorithms and pattern recognition, artificial intelligence applications, development of data pipelines, etc.

(vi) Citizen Science programs, which are a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process, are also invited. The current SMD Policy (https://smd-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/SPD%2033%20Citizen%20Science.pdf) on citizen science describes standards for evaluating proposed and funded SMD citizen science projects. For more information see the https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience webpage, that provides information about existing SMD-funded projects.

(vii) NASA astrophysics will follow recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020 (Astro2020) currently in progress, which will define new directions regarding mission development, science priorities and future investments (see at: https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/decadal-survey-on-astronomy-and-astrophysics-2020-astro2020)

Investigations submitted to the Astrophysics research program should explicitly support past, present, or future NASA astrophysics missions. These investigations can include theory, simulation, data analysis, and technology development. The Astrophysics research program and missions are described in Chapter 4.4 of the SMD 2014 Science Plan available at https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/science-strategy

A.4 The Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) is responsible for developing the crosscutting, pioneering, new technologies, and capabilities needed by the agency to achieve its current and future missions.

STMD rapidly develops, demonstrates, and infuses revolutionary, high-payoff technologies through transparent, collaborative partnerships, expanding the boundaries of the aerospace enterprise. STMD employs a merit-based competition model with a portfolio approach, spanning a range of discipline areas and technology readiness levels. By investing in bold, broadly applicable, disruptive technology that industry cannot tackle today, STMD seeks to mature the technology required for NASA's future missions in science and exploration while proving the capabilities and lowering the cost for other government agencies and commercial space activities.

Research and technology development takes place within NASA Centers, at JPL, in academia and industry, and leverages partnerships with other government agencies and international partners. STMD engages and inspires thousands of technologists and innovators creating a community of our best and brightest working on the nation's toughest challenges. By pushing the boundaries of technology and innovation, STMD allows NASA and our nation to remain at the cutting edge. Additional information on STMD can be found at: (http://www.nasa.gov/directorates/spacetech/about_us/index.html).

Areas of Interest – POC: Damian Taylor, Damian.Taylor@nasa.gov

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) expands the boundaries of the aerospace enterprise by rapidly developing, demonstrating, and infusing revolutionary, high-payoff technologies through collaborative partnerships. STMD employs a merit-based competition model with a portfolio approach, spanning a wide range of space technology discipline areas and technology readiness levels. Research and technology development takes place at NASA Centers, academia, and industry, and leverages partnerships with other government agencies and international partners.

STMD plans future investments to support the following strategic thrusts:

- ***Go***: *Rapid, Safe, & Efficient Space Transportation*
  - Develop nuclear technologies enabling fast in-space transits.
  - Develop cryogenic storage, transport, and fluid management technologies for surface and in-space applications.
  - Develop advanced propulsion technologies that enable future science/exploration missions.
- ***Land***: *Expanded Access to Diverse Surface Destinations*
  - Enable Lunar/Mars global access with ~20t payloads to support human missions.
  - Enable science missions entering/transiting planetary atmospheres and landing on planetary bodies.
  - Develop technologies to land payloads within 50 meters accuracy and avoid landing hazards.
- ***Live***: *Sustainable Living and Working Farther from Earth*
  - Develop exploration technologies and enable a vibrant space economy with supporting utilities and commodities.
    - Sustainable power sources and other surface utilities to enable continuous lunar and Mars surface operations.
    - Scalable ISRU production/utilization capabilities including sustainable commodities on the lunar & Mars surface.
    - Technologies that enable surviving the extreme lunar and Mars environments.
    - Autonomous excavation, construction & outfitting capabilities targeting landing pads/structures/habitable buildings utilizing in situ resources.
  - Enable long duration human exploration missions with Advanced Life Support & Human Performance technologies.
- ***Explore***: *Transformative Missions and Discoveries*
  - Develop next generation high performance computing, communications, and navigation.
  - Develop advanced robotics and spacecraft autonomy technologies to enable and augment science/exploration missions.
  - Develop technologies supporting emerging space industries including: Satellite Servicing & Assembly, In Space/Surface Manufacturing, and Small Spacecraft technologies.
  - Develop vehicle platform technologies supporting new discoveries.
  - Develop transformative technologies that enable future NASA or commercial missions and discoveries
- ***Lead***: *Ensuring American global leadership in Space Technology*
  - Lunar Exploration building to Mars and new discoveries at extreme locations
  - Robust national space technology engine to meet national needs

- U.S. economic growth for space industry
- Expanded commercial enterprise in space

Current space technology topics of particular interest include:

- Methods for space and in space manufacturing
- Autonomous in-space assembly of structures and spacecraft
- Ultra-lightweight materials for space applications
- Materials, structures and mechanisms for extreme environments (low and high temperatures, radiation, abrasive dust, etc.).
- Resource prospecting, mining, excavation, and extraction of in situ resources. Efficient in situ resource utilization to produce items required for long-duration deep space missions including fuels, water, oxygen, food, nutritional supplements, pharmaceuticals, building materials, polymers (plastics), and various other chemicals
- High performance space computing
- Smart habitats
- Extreme environment (including cryogenic) electronics for planetary exploration
- Advanced robotics for extreme environment sensing, mobility, manipulation and repair
- Advanced power generation, storage, and distribution for deep space missions and surface operations
- Advanced entry, decent, and landing systems for planetary exploration including materials response models and parachute models
- Radiation modeling, detection and mitigation for deep space crewed missions
- Biological approaches to environmental control, life support systems and manufacturing
- Autonomous systems for deep space missions
- Low size, weight, and power components for small spacecraft including high-bandwidth communication from space to ground, inter-satellite communication, relative navigation and control for swarms and constellations, precise pointing systems, power generation and energy storage, thermal management, system autonomy, miniaturized instruments and sensors, and in-space propulsion
- Technologies that take advantage of small launch vehicles and small spacecraft to conduct more rapid and lower-cost missions
- Advancements in engineering tools and models that support Space Technology advancement and development

Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new 2020 NASA Technology Taxonomy (replaced the 2015 NASA Technology Roadmaps) and the NASA Strategic Technology Integration Framework (coming soon) that most closely aligns with their space technology interests. The new 2020 NASA Technology Taxonomy may be downloaded at the following link: https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/taxonomy/index.html .

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) current year version of the NASA Research Announcement (NRA) entitled, "Space Technology Research, Development, Demonstration, and Infusion" has been posted on the NSPIRES web site at http://nspires.nasaprs.com (select "Solicitations" and then "Open Solicitations"). The NRA provides detailed information on specific proposals being sought across STMD program.

A.5 NASA Centers Areas of Interest

"Engagement with Center Chief Technologists and the Agency Capability Leadership Teams is critical to value of the research and selection of proposals." Examples of Center research interest areas include these specific areas from the following Centers. If no POC is listed in the Center write-up and contact information is needed, please contact the POC listed in Appendix D for that Center and request contacts for the research area of interest.

A.5.1 Ames Research Center (ARC)

POC: Harry Partridge, harry.partridge@nasa.gov

- Entry systems: Safely delivering spacecraft to Earth & other celestial bodies
- Advanced Computing & IT Systems: Enabling NASA's advanced modeling and simulation
  - Supercomputing
  - Quantum computing, quantum sensors and quantum algorithms
  - Applied physics and Computational materials
- Aero sciences:
  - Wind Tunnels: Testing on the ground before you take to the sky
- Air Traffic Management:
  - NextGen air transportation: Transforming the way we fly
  - Airborne science: Examining our own world & beyond from the sky
  - Airspace Systems, Unmanned aerial Systems
- Astrobiology and Life Science: Understanding life on Earth - and in space
  - Biology & Astrobiology
  - Space radiation health risks
  - Biotechnology, Synthetic biology
  - Instruments
- Cost-Effective Space Missions: Enabling high value science to low Earth orbit & the moon
  - Small Satellites, Cube satellites
- Intelligent/Adaptive Systems: Complementing humans in space
  - Autonomy & Robotics: Enabling complex air and space missions, and complementing humans in space
  - Human Systems Integration: Advancing human-technology interaction for NASA missions
  - Nanotechnology-electronics and sensors, flexible electronics
- Space and Earth Science: Understanding our planet, our solar system and everything beyond
  - Exoplanets: : Finding worlds beyond our own
  - Airborne Science: Examining our own world & beyond from the sky
  - Lunar Sciences: Rediscovering our moon, searching for water

A.5.2 Armstrong Flight Research Center (AFRC)

POC: Timothy Risch, timothy.k.risch@nasa.gov

- Hybrid Electric Propulsion
  (POC: Sean Clarke, AFRC-540)

- Supersonic Research (Boom mitigation and measurement)
  (POC: Ed Haering, AFRC-520)
- Supersonic Research (Laminar Flow)
  (POC: Dan Banks, AFRC-520)
- Hypersonic Structures & Sensors
  (POC: Larry Hudson, AFRC-560)
- Control of Flexible Structures, Modeling, System Identification, Advanced Sensors
  (POC: Matt Boucher, Jeff Ouellette, AFRC-530)
- Autonomy (Collision Avoidance, Perception, and Runtime Assurance)
  (POC: Nelson Brown, AFRC-530)
- Urban Air Mobility (UAM) Vehicle Handling and Ride Qualities
  (POC: Curt Hanson, AFRC-530)
- Urban Air Mobility (UAM) Envelope Protection
  (POC: Shawn McWherter, AFRC-530)
- Aircraft Electrical Powertrain Modeling
  (POC: Peter Suh, AFRC-530)
- Un-crewed Aerial Platforms for Earth and Planetary Science Missions
  (POC: Bruce Cogan, AFRC-570)

A.5.3 Glenn Research Center (GRC), POC: Kurt Sacksteder, kurt.sacksteder@nasa.gov or Mark David Kankam, Ph.D. mark.d.kankam@nasa.gov

Research and technology, and engineering engagements comprise including:

- Acoustics / Propulsion Acoustics
- Advanced Energy (Renewable Wind and Solar, Coal Energy and Alternative Energy)
- Advanced Microwave Communications
- Networks, Architectures and Systems Integration
- Intelligent Systems-Smart Sensors and Electronic Systems Technologies
- Aeronautical and Space Systems Analysis
- Electrified Aircraft
- Computer Systems and Networks
- Electric (Ion) Propulsion
- Fluid and Cryogenic Systems / Thermal Systems
- Growth of Ice on Aircraft
- Aviation Safety Improvements
- Instrumentation, Controls and Electronics
- Fluids, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) and Turbomachinery
- Materials and Structures, including Mechanical Components and Lubrication
- Mechanical and Drive Systems (Shape Memory Alloys-Base Actuation)
- Computational Modeling
- Microgravity Fluid Physics, Combustion Phenomena and Bioengineering
- Nanotechnology
- Photovoltaics, Electrochemistry-Physics, and Thermal Energy Conversion

- Propulsion System Aerodynamics
- Power Architecture, Generation, Storage, Distribution and Management
- Urban Air Mobility (UAM)
- Systems Engineering

The above engagement areas relate to the following key Glenn Areas of Expertise:

- Aircraft Propulsion
- Communications Technology and Development
- Space Propulsion and Cryogenic Fluids Management
- Power, Energy Storage and Conversion
- Materials and Structures for Extreme Environment
- Physical Sciences and Biomedical Technologies in Space

A.5.4 Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC),
POC: Heather B., gsfc-chief-technologist@mail.nasa.gov or James L. Harrington, james.l.harrington@nasa.gov

Engineering and Technology Directorate: POC: Danielle Margiotta, Danielle.V.Margiotta@nasa.gov

- **Advanced Manufacturing** - facilitates the development, evaluation, and deployment of efficient and flexible additive manufacturing technologies. (ref: NAMII.org)
- **Advanced Multi-functional Systems and Structures** - novel approaches to increase spacecraft systems resource utilization
- **Micro - and Nanotechnology - Based Detector Systems** - research and application of these technologies to increase the efficiency of detector and optical systems
- **Ultra-miniature Spaceflight Systems and Instruments** - miniaturization approaches from multiple disciplines - materials, mechanical, electrical, software, and optical - to achieve substantial resource reductions
- **Systems Robust to Extreme Environments** - materials and design approaches that will preserve designed system properties and operational parameters (e.g. mechanical, electrical, thermal), and enable reliable systems operations in hostile space environments.
- **Spacecraft Navigation Technologies**
  - Spacecraft GNSS receivers, ranging crosslink transceivers, and relative navigation sensors
  - Optical navigation and satellite laser ranging
  - Deep-space autonomous navigation techniques
  - Software tools for spacecraft navigation ground operations and navigation analysis
  - Formation Flying
- **Automated Rendezvous and Docking (AR&D) techniques**
  - Algorithm development
  - Pose estimation for satellite servicing missions
  - Sensors (e.g., LiDARs, natural feature recognition)
  - Actuation (e.g., micro propulsion, electromagnetic formation flying)
- **Mission and Trajectory Design Technologies**
  - Mission design tools that will enable new mission classes (e.g., low thrust planetary missions, precision formation flying missions)

- Mission design tools that reduce the costs and risks of current mission design methodologies
- Trajectory design techniques that enable integrated optimal designs across multiple orbital dynamic regimes (i.e. earth orbiting, earth-moon libration point, sun-earth libration point, interplanetary)

- **Spacecraft Attitude Determination and Control Technologies**
  - Modeling, simulation, and advanced estimation algorithms
  - Advanced spacecraft attitude sensor technologies (e.g., MEMS IMU's, precision optical trackers)
  - Advanced spacecraft actuator technologies (e.g. modular and scalable momentum control devices, 'green' propulsion, micropropulsion, low power electric propulsion)
- **CubeSats** - Participating institutions will develop CubeSat/Smallsat components, technologies and systems to support NASA technology demonstration and risk reduction efforts. Student teams will develop miniature CubeSat/Smallsat systems for: power generation and distribution, navigation, communication, on-board computing, structures (fixed and deployable), orbital stabilization, pointing, and de-orbiting. These components, technologies and systems shall be made available for use by NASA for integration into NASA Cubesat/Smallsats. They may be integrated into complete off-the-shelf "CubeSat/Smallsat bus" systems, with a goal of minimizing "bus" weight/power/volume/cost and maximizing available "payload" weight/power/volume. NASA technologists will then use these components/systems to develop payloads that demonstrate key technologies to prove concepts and/or reduce risks for future Earth Science, Space Science and Exploration/Robotic Servicing missions. POC: Thomas P. Flatley (Thomas.P.Flatley@nasa.gov).
- **On-Orbit Multicore Computing** - High performance multicore processing for advanced automation and science data processing on spacecraft. There are multiple multicore processing platforms in development that are being targeted for the next generation of science and exploration missions, but there is little work in the area of software frameworks and architectures to utilize these platforms. It is proposed that research in the areas of efficient inter-core communications, software partitioning, fault detection, isolation & recovery, memory management, core power management, scheduling algorithms, and software frameworks be done to enable a transition to these newer platforms. Participating institutions can select areas to research and work with NASA technologists to develop and prototype the resulting concepts. POC: Alan Cudmore (Alan.p.cudmore@nasa.gov).
- **Integrated Photonic components and systems** - Integrated photonic components and systems for Sensors, Spectrometers, Chemical/biological sensors, Microwave, Sub-millimeter and Long-Wave Infra-Red photonics, Telecom- inter and intra satellite communications.
- **Quantum sensors and quantum networking**
- **Artificial intelligence and machine learning**
- **Radiation Effects and Analysis**
  - Flight validation of advanced event rate prediction techniques
  - New approaches for testing and evaluating 3-D integrated microcircuits and other advanced microelectronic devices

- End-to-end system (e.g., integrated component level or higher) modeling of radiation effects
- Statistical approaches to tackle radiation hardness assurance (i.e., total dose, displacement damage, and/or single-event effects) for high-risk, low-cost missions.

- **Model Based System Engineering (MBSE)**

Sciences and Exploration Directorate POC: Blanche Meeson, Blanche.W.Meeson@nasa.gov

The Sciences and Exploration Directorate at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (http://science.gsfc.nasa.gov) is the largest Earth and space science research organization in the world. Its scientists advance understanding of the Earth and its life-sustaining environment, the Sun, the solar system, and the wider universe beyond. All are engaged in the full life cycle of satellite missions and instruments from concept development to implementation, analysis and application of the scientific information, and community access and services.

- The **Earth Sciences Division** plans, organizes, evaluates, and implements a broad program of research on our planet's natural systems and processes. Major focus areas include climate change, severe weather, the atmosphere, the oceans, sea ice and glaciers, and the land surface. To study the planet from the unique perspective of space, the Earth Science Division develops and operates remote-sensing satellites and instruments. We analyze observational data from these spacecraft and make it available to the world's scientists and policy makers. The Division conducts extensive field campaigns to gather data from the surface and airborne platforms. The Division also develops, uses, and assimilates observations into models that simulate planetary processes involving the water, energy, and carbon cycles at multiple scales up to global. POC: Eric Brown de Colstoun (eric.c.browndecolsto@nasa.gov).

- The **Astrophysics Science Division** conducts a broad program of research in astronomy, astrophysics, and fundamental physics. Individual investigations address issues such as the nature of dark matter and dark energy, which planets outside our solar system may harbor life, and the nature of space, time, and matter at the edges of black holes. Observing photons, particles, and gravitational waves enables researchers to probe astrophysical objects and processes. Researchers develop theoretical models, design experiments and hardware to test theories, and interpret and evaluate observational data. POC: Rita Samburna (Rita.m.Sambruna@nasa.gov).

- The **Heliophysics Science Division** conducts research on the Sun, its extended solar-system environment (the heliosphere), and interactions of Earth, other planets, small bodies, and interstellar gas with the heliosphere. Division research also encompasses Geospace, Earth's magnetosphere and its outer atmosphere, and Space Weather—the important effects that heliospheric disturbances have on spacecraft and terrestrial systems. Division scientists develop spacecraft missions and instruments, systems to manage and disseminate heliophysical data, and theoretical and computational models to interpret the data. Possible heliophysics-related research include: advanced software environments and data-mining strategies to collect, collate and analyze data relevant to the Sun and its effects on the solar system and the Earth ("space weather"); and advanced computational techniques, including but not limited to parallel architectures and the effective use of graphics processing units, for the simulation of magnetized and highly dynamic plasmas and neutral gases in the heliosphere. POC: Doug Rabin (Douglas.Rabin@nasa.gov).

- The **Solar System Exploration Division** builds science instruments and conducts theoretical and experimental research to explore the solar system and understand the formation and evolution of planetary systems. Laboratories within the division investigate areas as diverse as astrochemistry, planetary atmospheres, extrasolar planetary systems, earth science, planetary geodynamics, space geodesy, and comparative planetary studies. To study how planetary systems form and evolve, division scientists develop theoretical models and experimental research programs, as well as mission investigations and space instruments to test them. The researchers participate in planetary and Earth science missions, and collect, interpret, and evaluate measurements. *POC: Brook Lakew (Brook.Lakew@nasa.gov)*

- **Quantum sensors and quantum networking:** Quantum computing is based on quantum bits or qubits. Unlike traditional computers, in which bits must have a value of either zero or one, a qubit can represent a zero, a one, or both values simultaneously. Representing information in qubits allows the information to be processed in ways that have no equivalent in classical computing, taking advantage of phenomena such as quantum tunneling and quantum entanglement. As such, quantum computers may theoretically be able to solve certain problems in a few days that would take millions of years on a classical computer. *POC: Mike Little (m.m.little@nasa.gov)*

- **Artificial intelligence and machine learning**: *POCs: Mark Carroll (mark.carroll@nasa.gov) across the entire organization and in Heliophysics Barbara Thompson (Barbara.j.thompson@nasa.gov)*

- **(Big) data analytics:** Data Analytics, including Data Mining and Pattern Recognition for Science applications and with special emphasis on:
    - Quantification of uncertainty in inference from big data
    - Experiment design to create data that is AI/ML ready and robust against misleading correlations
    - Methods for prediction of new discovery spaces
    - Strength of evidence and reproducibility in inference from big data

  POC: Mark Carroll (mark.carroll@nasa.gov)

Scientists in all four divisions publish research results in the peer-reviewed literature, participate in the archiving and pubic dissemination of scientific data, and provide expert user support.

A.5.5 Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL),

POC: Fred Y. Hadaegh, fred.y.hadaegh@jpl.nasa.gov

- Solar System Science
  Planetary Atmospheres and Geology
  Solar System characteristics and origin of life
  Primitive (1) solar systems bodies
  Lunar (9) science
  Preparing for returned sample investigations

- Earth Science
  Atmospheric composition and dynamics (Atmospheric Dynamics
  Land and solid earth processes (Solid Earth Processes
  Water and carbon cycles, Carbon Cycles, Water Cycles
  Ocean and ice
  Earth analogs to planets, Earth Analog

Climate Science

- <u>Astronomy and Fundamental Physics</u>
  Origin, evolution, and structure of the universe, Origin Universe, Evolution Universe, Structure Universe
  Gravitational astrophysics and fundamental physics
  Extra-solar planets: Exoplanets; Star formation; Planetary formation
  Solar and Space Physics
  Formation and evolution of galaxies; Formation Galaxies; Evolution Galaxies

- <u>In-Space Propulsion Technologies</u>
  Chemical propulsion
  Non-chemical propulsion
  Advanced propulsion technologies
  Supporting technologies
  Thermal Electric Propulsion
  Electric Propulsion

- <u>Space Power and Energy Storage</u>
  Power generation
  Energy storage
  Power management & distribution
  Cross-cutting technologies
  Solar power, Photovoltaic
  Tethers
  Radioisotope
  Thermoelectric

- <u>Robotics, Tele-Robotics, and Autonomous Systems</u>
  Sensing (Robotic Sensing)
  Mobility
  Manipulation technology
  Human-systems interfaces
  Autonomy
  Autonomous rendezvous & docking
  Systems engineering
  Vision
  Virtual reality
  Telepresence
  Computer Aided

- <u>Communication and Navigation</u>
  Optical communications & navigation technology
  Radio frequency communications, Radio Technologies
  Internetworking
  Position navigation and timing
  Integrated technologies
  Revolutionary concepts

Communication technology
Antennas
Radar
Remote Sensing
Optoelectronics

- Human Exploration Destination Systems
  In situ resource utilization and Cross-cutting systems

  Science Instruments, Observatories and Sensor Systems
  Science Mission Directorate Technology Needs
  Remote Sensing instruments/Remote Sensing Sensors
  Observatory technologies
  In-situ instruments, Sensor technologies
  Sensors
  In situ technologies
  Instrument technologies
  Precision frequency
  Precision timing
- Entry, Descent and Landing Systems
  Aerobraking, Aerocapture and entry system; Descent; Engineered materials; Energy generation and storage; Propulsion; Electronics, devices and sensors
  - Nanotechnology
  - Microtechnology
  - Microelectronics
  - Microdevice
  - Orbital Mechanics
  - Spectroscopy
- Modeling, Simulation, Information Technology and Processing
  Flight and ground computing; Modeling; Simulation; Information processing
- Materials, Structures, Mechanical Systems and Manufacturing
  Materials; Structures; Mechanical systems; Cross cutting
- Thermal Management Systems
  Cryogenic systems; Thermal control systems (near room temperature); Thermal protection systems

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Other Research Areas

Small Satellite
Small Satellite Technologies
Balloons
Radio Science
MEMS
Advanced High Temperature
Spectroscopy
Magnetosphere
Plasma Physics
Ionospheres
Ground Data Systems

Laser
Drills
High Energy Astrophysics
Solar physics
Interstellar Astrophysics
Interstellar Medium
Astrobiology
Astro bio geochemistry
Life Detection
Cosmo chemistry
Adaptive Optics
Artificial Intelligence

A.5.6 Johnson Space Center (JSC)

POC: Nick Skytland, nicholas.g.skytland@nasa.gov

Active Thermal Control

- Condensing heat exchanger coatings with robust hydrophilic, antimicrobial properties
- Development and demonstration of wax and water-based phase change material heat exchangers
- Lightweight heat exchangers and cold plates

ECLSS

- Advancements in Carbon Dioxide Reduction
- Habitation systems that minimize consumables
- Human thermal modeling
- Low toxicity hygiene and cleaning products and methods

EVA

- Portable Life Support System
- Power, Avionics and Software
- Pressure Garment

Entry, Descent, and Landing

- Innovative, Groundbreaking, and High Impact Developments in Spacecraft GN&C Technologies
- Deployable Decelerator Technologies
- High-Fidelity Parachute Fluid/Structure Interaction
- Mechanical Reefing Release Mechanism for Parachutes
- Next Generation Parachute Systems & Modeling
- Precision Landing & Hazard Avoidance Technologies
- Regolith – Rocket Plume Interaction: In-situ Measurements to Enable Multiple Landings at the Same Site
- Optical / Vision-Based Navigation for EDL Applications
- Sensors, including those embedded in thermal protection systems and proximity operations and landing
- Additive Manufacturing for Thermal Protection Systems
- Advanced Materials and Instrumentation for Thermal Protection Systems

- Predictive Material Modeling

Energy Storage technologies

- Batteries, Regenerative Fuel cells

In-Situ Resource Utilization

- Lunar/Mars regolith processing (Regolith collection and drying; Water collection and processing, water electrolysis)
- Mars atmosphere processing (CO_2 collection; Dust filtering; Solid Oxide CO_2 electrolysis; Sabatier; Reverse water gas shift)
- Methane/Oxygen liquefaction and storage

In-space propulsion technologies

Autonomy and Robotics

- Biomechanics
- Crew Exercise
- Human Robotic interface
- Autonomous Vehicle Systems/Management
- Data Mining and Fusion
- Robotics and TeleRobotics
- Simulation and modeling

Autonomous Rendezvous and Docking - Next generation In-space docking systems concepts addressing challenges of mass, environments, flight operations and including long duration missions, consider:

- New Rendezvous & Docking strategies ie;, greater vehicle reliance vs kinetic energy, addressing vehicle capabilities, sensors, etc…
- Simplification of soft capture system attenuation; less complex and lighter systems
- Docking independent LRU strategies vs Integrated vehicle solution
- Seals and sealing technology
- Consumables transfer technology (power, data, water, air, fluids)
- Maintenance

Surface Docking System Concepts addressing:

- System design and interfaces
- Environments tolerance including long duration exposure

Computer Human Interfaces (CHI)

- *CHI - Human System Integration*
- Human Computer Interaction design methods (Multi-modal and Intelligent Interaction) and apparatuses
- Human Systems Integration, Human Factors Engineering: state of the art in Usability, workload, and performance assessment methods and apparatus.
- Inclusion of Human Readiness Level into HSI
- Humans Systems Integration Inclusion in Systems Engineering
- Human-in-the-loop system data acquisition and performance modeling
- Trust computing methodology

- *CHI - Informatics*

- Crew decision support systems
- Advanced Situation Awareness Technologies
- Intelligent Displays for Time-Critical Maneuvering of Multi-Axis Vehicles
- Intelligent Response and Interaction System
- Exploration Space Suit (xEMU) Informatics
- Graphic Displays to Facilitate Rapid Discovery, Diagnosis and Treatment of Medical Emergencies
- CHI machine learning methods and algorithms
- Imaging and information processing
- Audio system architecture for Exploration Missions

- *CHI - Audio*
- Array Microphone Systems and processing
- Machine-learning front end audio processing
- Audio Compression algorithms implementable in FPGAs.
- COMSOL Acoustic modeling
- Front end audio noise cancellation algorithms implementable in FPGAs-example Independent Component Analysis
- Large bandwidth (audio to ultra-sonic) MEMs Microphones
- Sonification Algorithms implementable in DSPs/FPGAs
- Far-Field Speech Recognition in Noisy Environments

- *CHI - Imaging and Display*
- Lightweight/low power/radiation tolerant displays
- OLED Technology Evaluation for Space Applications
- Radiation tolerant Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)
- Scalable complex electronics & software-implementable graphics processing unit
- Radiation-Tolerant Imagers
- Immersive Imagery capture and display
- H265 Video Compression
- Ultra High Video Compressions
- A Head Mounted Display Without Focus/Fixation Disparity
- EVA Heads-Up Display (HUD) Optics

Wearable Technology

- Tattooed Electronic Sensors
- Wearable Audio Communicator
- Wearable sensing and hands-free control
- Wearable Sensors and Controls
- Wearable digital twin/transformation sensor systems

Wireless and Communications Systems

- Computational Electromagnetics (CEM) Fast and Multi-Scale Methods/Algorithms
- EPCglobal-type RFID ICs at frequencies above 2 G
- Radiation Hardened EPCglobal Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Readers
- Robust, Dynamic Ad hoc Wireless Mesh Communication Networks
- Wireless Energy Harvesting Sensor Technologies
- Flight and Ground communication systems

Radiation and EEE Parts

- Mitigation and Biological countermeasures
- Monitoring
- Protection systems
- Risk assessment modeling
- Space weather prediction

Nicholas Skytland
Deputy Chief, Exploration Technology Office
Exploration Integration and Science Directorate
NASA Johnson Space Center
https://eto.jsc.nasa.gov/

A.5.7 Kennedy Space Center (KSC)

POC Delvin VanNorman, delvin.vannorman@nasa.gov or Jose Nunez, jose.l.nunez@nasa.gov

- HEOMD – Commercial Crew systems development and ISS payload and flight experiments
- Environmental and Green Technologies
- Health and Safety Systems for Operations
- Communications and Tracking Technologies
- Robotic, automated and autonomous systems and operations
- Payload Processing & Integration Technologies (all class payloads)
- R&T Technologies on In-Space Platforms (e.g., ISS, Gateway, Human Habitats)
- Damage-resistant and self-healing materials
- Plant Research and Production
- Water/nutrient recovery and management
- Plant habitats and Flight Systems
- Food production and waste management
- Robotic, automated and autonomous food production
- Robotic, automated and autonomous food production
- Damage-resistant and self-healing materials
- Automated and autonomous detection and repair
- Propulsion: Chemical Propulsion flight integration (human transportation)
- Space Environments Test: Right/West Altitude Chamber
- Launch technologies including propellant management, range & communications
- Vehicle, payload and flight science experiment integration and testing
- Landing & recovery operations
- Biological sciences (Plant research & production)
- Destination systems including ISRU, surface construction & dust mitigation
- Autonomous/robotic (unmanned) surface systems and operations
- Water resource utilization technologies
- Logistics reduction technologies

NOTE:

1. The above R&T Focus Areas are described in the KSC R&T Portfolio Data Dictionary

A.5.8 Langley Research Center (LaRC)

Langley Research Center (LaRC), POC: Dr. Neyda Abreu, neyda.m.abreu@nasa.gov

- Intelligent Flight Systems—autonomy and robotics." (POC: Charles "Mike" Fremaux 757-864-1193)
- Atmospheric Characterization – Active & Passive Remote and In-situ Sensing (POC: Allen Larar 757.864.5328)
- Systems Analysis and Concepts - Air Transportation System Architectures & Vehicle Concepts (POC: Phil Arcara 757.864.5978)
- Advanced Materials & Structural System – Advanced Manufacturing (POC: David Moore 757-864-9169)
- Aerosciences - Trusted Autonomy (POC: Charles "Mike" Fremaux 757-864-1193)
- Entry, Decent & Landing - Robotic Mission Entry Vehicles (POC: Ron Merski – 757-864-7539)
- Measurement Systems - Advanced Sensors and Optical Measurement (POC: Tom Jones 757-864-4903)

A.5.9 Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)

POC: John Dankanich, john.dankanich@nasa.gov and https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/center-chief-technologists-2

These Principal Technologists and System Capability Leads are available for consultation with proposers regarding the state-of-the-art, on-going activities and investments, and strategic needs in their respective areas of expertise. Proposers are encouraged to consult with the appropriate PT or SCLT early in the proposal process.

STMD POC	Technology Area	NASA Email
Danette Allen	Autonomous Systems	danette.allen@nasa.gov
Shaun Azimi	Robotics	shaun.m.azimi@nasa.gov
Jim Broyan	ECLSS[1] Deputy	james.l.broyan@nasa.gov
John Carson	EDL Precision Landing; HPSC[2]	john.m.carson@nasa.gov
Scott Cryan	Rendezvous & Capture	scott.p.cryan@nasa.gov
John Dankanich	In Space Transportation	john.dankanich@nasa.gov
Terry Fong	Autonomous Systems	terry.fong@nasa.gov
Robyn Gatens	ECLSS Lead	robyn.gatens@nasa.gov
Julie Grantier	In Space Transportation	julie.a.grantier@nasa.gov
Mark Hilburger	Structures/Materials	mark.w.hilburger@nasa.gov
Michael Johansen	Dust Mitigation	michael.r.johansen@nasa.gov
Julie Kleinhenz	In Situ Resource Utilization	julie.e.kleinhenz@nasa.gov
Angela Krenn	Thermal Technologies	angela.g.krenn@nasa.gov
Ron Litchford	Propulsion Systems	ron.litchford@nasa.gov
Jason Mitchell	Communications & Navigation	jason.w.mitchell@nasa.gov
Michelle Munk	Entry, Descent and Landing (EDL)	michelle.m.munk@nasa.gov
Bo Naasz	Rendezvous & Capture	bo.j.naasz@nasa.gov
Denise Podolski	Sensors/Radiation/Comm.	denise.a.podolski@nasa.gov
Wes Powell	Avionics/Communications	wesley.a.powell@nasa.gov

Jerry Sanders	In Situ Resource Utilization	gerald.b.sanders@nasa.gov
John Scott	Space Power & Energy Storage	john.h.scott@nasa.gov
John Vickers	Advanced Manufacturing	john.h.vickers@nasa.gov
Sharada Vitalpur	Communications & Navigation	sharada.v.vitalpur@nasa.gov
Arthur Werkheiser	Cryofluid Management	arthur.wekheiser@nasa.gov
Mike Wright	Entry, Descent and Landing	michael.j.wright@nasa.gov

Propulsion Systems

- Launch Propulsion Systems, Solid & Liquid
- In Space Propulsion (Cryogenics, Green Propellants, Nuclear, Fuel Elements, Solar-Thermal, Solar Sails, Tethers)
- Propulsion Testbeds and Demonstrators (Pressure Systems)
- Combustion Physics
- Cryogenic Fluid Management
- Turbomachinery
- Rotordynamics
- Solid Propellant Chemistry
- Solid Ballistics
- Rapid Affordable Manufacturing of Propulsion Components
- Materials Research (Nano Crystalline Metallics, Diamond Film Coatings)
- Materials Compatibility
- Computational Fluid Dynamics
- Unsteady Flow Environments
- Acoustics and Stability
- Low Leakage Valves

Space Systems

- In Space Habitation (Life Support Systems and Nodes, 3D Printing)
- Mechanical Design & Fabrication
- Small Payloads (For International Space Station, Space Launch System)
- In-Space Asset Management (Automated Rendezvous & Capture, De-Orbit, Orbital Debris Mitigation, Proximity Operations)
- Radiation Shielding
- Thermal Protection
- Electromagnetic Interference
- Advanced Communications
- Small Satellite Systems (CubeSats)
- Structural Modeling and Analysis
- Spacecraft Design (CAD)

Space Transportation

- Mission and Architecture Analysis
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Space Environmental Effects and Space Weather
- Lander Systems and Technologies
- Small Spacecraft and Enabling Technologies (Nanolaunch Systems)
- 3D Printing/Additive Manufacturing/Rapid Prototyping
- Meteoroid Environment
- Friction Stir and Ultrasonic Welding
- Advanced Closed-Loop Life Support Systems
- Composites and Composites Manufacturing
- Wireless Data & Comm. Systems
- Ionic Liquids
- Guidance, Navigation and Control (Autonomous, Small Launch Vehicle)
- Systems Health Management
- Martian Navigation Architecture/Systems
- Planetary Environment Modeling
- Autonomous Systems (reconfiguration, Mission Planning)
- Digital Thread / Product Lifecycle Management (for AM and/or Composites)
- Material Failure Diagnostics

Science

- Replicated Optics
- Large Optics (IR, visible, UV, X-Ray)
- High Energy Astrophysics (X-Ray, Gamma Ray, Cosmic Ray)
- Radiation Mitigation/Shielding
- Gravitational Waves and their Electromagnetic Counterparts
- Solar, Magnetospheric and Ionospheric Physics
- Planetary Geology and Seismology
- Planetary Dust, Space Physics and Remote Sensing
- Surface, Atmospheres and Interior of Planetary Bodies
- Earth Science Applications
- Convective and Severe Storms Research
- Lightning Research
- Data Informatics
- Disaster Monitoring
- Energy and Water Cycle Research
- Remote Sensing of Precipitation

A.5.10 Stennis Space Center (SSC),

POC: Dr. Ramona Travis, ramona.e.travis@nasa.gov

Intelligent Integrated System Health Management (ISHM) for Ground and Space Applications

Integrated system health management (ISHM) encompasses a unified approach of assessing the current and future state of a system's health and considers a system integrated interdependencies with other systems within a framework of available resources, concepts of operations, and operational demands.

ISHM not only considers the current health state of systems, but also the health across a system's entire life cycle. Both system health data and usage data are used to analyze and identify the behavior unique to a system, as well as help identify trends in degradation over time and estimate remaining useful life. In this context, SSC is interested in methodologies to assess the health of ground and space systems that will play a role in enabling lunar sustainability *e.g., fluid, electrical, power, thermal, propulsion, GNC (guidance, navigation, and control) and life support; required for ground facilities, spacecraft, rovers, habitats and landers.

Expected outcomes of EPSCoR research could include the following: (1) to develop monitoring and diagnostic capabilities that use intelligent models to monitor and document the operation of the system; (2) to develop monitoring and prognostics capabilities that use intelligent models to assess the life cycle of the system; (3) to develop architectures/taxonomies/ontologies for integrated system health management using distributed intelligent elements; and (4) to develop user and operator interfaces, both visual and voice, that enable ease of use for ISHM capability.

Autonomous Operations Capability for Ground and Space Applications

HEOMD has identified numerous capability gaps in the current state of the art for implementing autonomous operations. Autonomous operations are critical capabilities required for the future of NASA exploration and space missions. Autonomous operations inherently involve high levels of intricacy and cost, and these issues become exponentially compounded by increasing complexity of system design for operations in space, for operations on surfaces beyond earth, in harsh environmental conditions, and operations of systems at communication distances that limit human involvement.

Therefore, to enable sustainability for Artemis exploration and space operations, unprecedented levels of autonomy will be required to successfully accomplish planned mission objectives. Furthermore, to enabling autonomous operational capabilities, trust in these systems needs to be established.

In this context, SSC is interested in exploring challenges associated with implementing intelligent hierarchical distributed autonomous systems for Artemis capabilities required for lunar habitation and exploration; and on foundations for implementing trusted autonomous space systems.

Expected outcomes of an EPSCOR research project could include the following: (1) to develop technologies that enable trusted autonomy and autonomous space systems; (2) to develop technologies that enable hierarchical distributed autonomy; (3) to develop technologies that enable on-board autonomy whereby observation, analysis, decisions, and execution of tasks are done by the systems themselves; and (4) to develop technologies for user interfaces with autonomous systems.

Advanced Propulsion Test Technology Development

Rocket propulsion development is enabled by rigorous ground testing to mitigate the propulsion system risks that are inherent in spaceflight. This is true for virtually all propulsive devices of a space vehicle including liquid and solid rocket propulsion, chemical and nonchemical propulsion, boost stage, in-space propulsion, and so forth. This area of interest seeks to develop advanced ground test technology components and system level ground test systems that enhance chemical and advanced propulsion technology development and certification while substantially reducing the costs and improving safety/reliability of NASA's test and launch operations. At present, focal areas of interest are:

- Tools using computational methods to accurately model and predict system performance, that integrate simple interfaces with detailed design and/or analysis software, are required. Stennis Space Center (SSC) is interested in improving capabilities and methods to accurately predict and model the transient fluid structure interaction between cryogenic fluids and immersed components to predict the dynamic loads and frequency response of facilities.
- Improved capabilities to predict and model the behavior of components (valves, check valves, chokes, etc.) during the facility design process are needed. These capabilities are required for modeling components in high pressure (to 12,000 psi), with flow rates up to several thousand lb/sec, in cryogenic environments and must address two-phase flows. Challenges include: accurate, efficient, thermodynamic state models; cavitation models for propellant tanks, valve flows, and run lines; reduction in solution time; improved stability; acoustic interactions; and fluid-structure interactions in internal flows.

Advanced Rocket Propulsion Test Instrumentation

Rocket propulsion system development is enabled by rigorous ground testing to mitigate the propulsion system risks inherent in spaceflight. Test articles and facilities are highly instrumented to enable a comprehensive analysis of propulsion system performance. Advanced instrumentation has the potential for substantial reduction in time and cost of propulsion systems development, with substantially reduced operational costs and improvements in ground, launch, and flight system operational robustness.

Advanced instrumentation should provide a wireless, highly flexible instrumentation solution capable of multiple measurements (e.g., heat flux, temperature, pressure, strain, and/or near-field acoustics). These advanced instruments should function as a modular node in a sensor network, capable of performing some processing, gathering sensory information, and communicating with other connected nodes in the network. The collected sensor network must be capable of integration with data from conventional data acquisition systems adhering to strict calibration and timing standards (e.g., Synchronization with Inter-Range Instrumentation Group—Time Code Format B (IRIG-B) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) traceability is critical to propulsion test data analysis.)

Rocket propulsion test facilities also provide excellent testbeds for testing and using the innovative technologies for possible application beyond the static propulsion testing environment. These sensors would be capable of addressing multiple mission requirements for remote monitoring such as vehicle health monitoring in flight systems, autonomous vehicle operation, or instrumenting inaccessible measurement locations, all while eliminating cabling and auxiliary power. Advanced instrumentation could support sensing and control applications beyond those of propulsion testing. For example, inclusion of expert system or artificial intelligence technologies might provide great benefits for autonomous operations, health monitoring, or self-maintaining systems.

Additional Description of Research Interests:

Appendix G: FY22 Research Interests from NASA EPSCoR R3 solicitation (expected release date December 2021)

G.1.0 Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS)

In July 2020, NASA's biological and physical sciences research was transferred from the Space Life and Physical Sciences Research & Applications (SLPSRA) Division in the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) into the Biological and Physical Sciences (BPS) Division in the Science Mission Directorate (SMD).

The mission of BPS is two-pronged:

- Pioneer scientific discovery in and beyond low Earth orbit to drive advances in science, technology, and space exploration to enhance knowledge, education, innovation, and economic vitality
- Enable human spaceflight exploration to expand the frontiers of knowledge, capability, and opportunity in space

Execution of this mission requires both scientific research and technology development.

BPS administers NASA's:

- Space Biology Program, which solicits and conducts research to understand how biological systems accommodate to spaceflight environments
- Physical Sciences Program, which solicits and conducts research to understand how physical systems respond to spaceflight environments, particularly weightlessness

BPS partners with the research community and a wide range of organizations to accomplish its mission. Grants to academic, commercial and government laboratories are the core of BPS's research and technology development efforts.

Additional information on BPS can be found at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical

G.1.1 Space Biology Program

The Space Biology Program within NASA's Biological and Physical Sciences Division focuses on pioneering scientific discovery and enabling human spaceflight exploration. Research in space biology has the following goals:

- To effectively use microgravity, radiation, and the other characteristics of the space environment to enhance our understanding of fundamental biological processes.
- To develop the scientific and technological foundations for a safe, productive human presence in space for extended periods and in preparation for exploration.

- To apply this knowledge and technology to improve our nation's competitiveness, education, and the quality of life on Earth.

Research proposals are being solicited on the following topics:

- Organismal Biology – responses of whole organisms and their systems to ionizing radiation and/or other spaceflight-relevant stressors such as altered gravity simulators.
    - These will be ground-based studies.
    - Ionizing radiation and altered gravity regimes (partial gravity and microgravity) are a hallmark of the deep space environment. These stressors may cause direct physiological changes in the organisms or result in indirect effects such as loss of sleep in some organisms. Studies should effectively delineate the biological effects of these factors, separately and/or in combination where possible. See information on radiation facilities below.
    - Understand the mechanistic bases of the changes induced in these unique environments, preferably from a systems biology perspective, and could include genetic, cellular, or molecular biological effects.

- Advanced *in vitro* models: 3D Tissues and Tissue Chips or Microphysiological Systems – Using advanced *in vitro* models to investigate biological mechanisms associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.
    - These will be ground-based studies.
    - Ionizing radiation, specifically space radiation, is a concern for astronauts on deep space long duration missions. Understanding the mechanisms of damage induced by ionizing radiation will be important to inform risks to astronauts and develop effective countermeasures. Studies proposing ionizing radiation should use space relevant radiation exposures and doses. See information on radiation facilities below.

    Information on radiation facilities:

    - The NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) is an irradiation facility capable of supplying particles from protons to gold with primary energies in the range of 50-2500 MeV for protons and 50-1100 MeV/n for high-mass, high-energy (HZE) particles. Selection of beam species and energies for experimental periods will be made by NASA officials in consultation with scientists proposing experiments for these beams. Activities at the NSRL are a joint effort of Brookhaven National Laboratory's Collider-Accelerator Department, providing accelerated particle beams, and the Biosciences Department, providing experimental area support, animal care, and cell and biology laboratories. The NSRL includes irradiation stations, beam controls, and laboratory facilities required for most radiobiological investigations. Additional information about NSRL may be found at https://www.bnl.gov/nsrl/.
    - Colorado State University low dose rate neutron facility is another ionizing radiation facility that provides low dose rate neutrons. Details can be found at: https://three.jsc.nasa.gov under "IN THE NEWS– JULY 2018" or by email to

michael.weil@colostate.edu. Gamma-rays (Cs or Co) should be used as the reference radiation for studies. Significant justification needs to be provided to use X-rays with energies below 300 peak kilovoltage (kVp) as a reference radiation. Gamma controls must be completed at BNL for comparison with heavy charged particles, specifically for the calculation of relative biological effectiveness (RBE). Gamma ray exposures can also be performed at Colorado State University.

All proposals submitted to the EPSCoR Research Announcement are required to include a data management plan (DMP) that describes how data generated through the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved, including timeframe, or explain why data sharing and/or preservation are not possible or scientifically appropriate, or why the data need not be made publicly available. Specifically, for this Research Announcement, award recipients are required to upload all relevant data in the GeneLab Data Systems (https://genelab.nasa.gov), as well as make all analytical models, tools, and software produced under the funded research, as well as related documentation, available to NASA. Furthermore, articles published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and papers published in peer-reviewed conference proceedings, should be made publicly accessible via NASA's PubSpace website (Submit to PubSpace - Scientific and Technical Information Program (nasa.gov)).

Further information for the Space Biology program are available at:
https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/programs/space-biology
https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/documents

G.1.2 Physical Science Program

The Physical Science Research Program conducts fundamental and applied research to advance scientific knowledge, to improve space systems, and to advance technologies that may produce new products offering benefits on Earth. Space offers unique advantages for experimental research in the physical sciences. NASA supports research that uses to space environment to make significant scientific advances. Many of NASA's experiments in the physical sciences reveal how physical systems respond to the near absence of gravity. Forces that on Earth are small compared to gravity can dominate system behavior in space. Understanding the consequences is a critical aspect of space system design. Research in physical sciences spans from basic and applied research in the areas of:

- Fluid physics: two-phase flow, boiling, condensation, heat pipes, capillary and interfacial phenomena; cryogenic fluid storage and transfer
- Combustion science: spacecraft fire safety, solids, liquids and gasses, transcritical combustion, supercritical reacting fluids, and soot formation;
- Materials science: solidification in metal and alloys, crystal growth, electronic materials, glasses and ceramics, granular materials, extraction of material from regoliths;
- Complex Fluids: colloidal systems, emulsions, liquid crystals, polymer flows, foams and granular flows;

- Fundamental physics: space optical/atomic clocks, quantum test of equivalence principle, theory supporting space-based experiments in quantum entanglement, decoherence, cold atom physics, and dusty plasmas.

Areas of particular interest include:

- **Extraction of Materials from Regolith** - NASA is successfully advancing the mission of returning humans to the Lunar surface and establishing a long-term presence. Critical to success of sustaining a human presence on the Lunar surface is the utilization of natural resources. Extraction of materials (e.g. metals, glasses and water ice) from extra-terrestrial regolith and the subsequent use in manufacturing key infrastructure will enable humans to thrive on extra-terrestrial surfaces. The Physical Sciences Program requests research to develop and increase understanding of extraction techniques to generate useful materials (e.g. metals, glasses, water ice) from Lunar or Martian regolith.

  Proposed studies are expected to generate and test specific hypotheses to the extent possible in a terrestrial lab. Investigations should be proposed that would study one or more of the following topics:

  - Refinement of existing techniques to extract materials from regolith.
  - Development of new techniques for extraction of materials from regolith.
  - Studies of the extracted material to determine its properties or to investigate novel ways of utilizing it to support NASA's exploration goals.
  - Investigations to determine manufacturing processes using regolith or materials extracted from regolith to produce infrastructure and/or outfitting critical to sustaining life on extra-terrestrial surfaces.

  It is expected that regolith simulant, or equivalent, will be used for the proposed experiments.

- **Metamaterials in Soft Matter -** Metamaterials have recently drawn the attention of soft-matter scientists and engineers with the possibility of designing metamaterials that have their functions governed, not by the specific substance out of which the material is constructed, but rather by its microstructure. Also, soft matter-based metamaterials possess unique physical properties, owing to their engineered structure, ranging from negative index material with regard to multitude of physical properties (e.g.- viscosity, refractive index, acoustics etc.). Some of the challenges that need to be answered are:
  - Development of novel soft-matter based metamaterials
  - Develop methodologies to encode multiple functions in soft-matter based metamaterials

- Understand the scalability of active materials & metamaterials and how that affects multiple functionality

In addition to laboratory experimentation of metamaterials, short duration microgravity experiments in drop towers or parabolic flights can be considered since metamaterial formation may involve phenomena such as phase separation, onset of interfacial instability, etc.

- **Oscillating Heat Pipes** - NASA has a growing need for improved passive thermal management of electronics, batteries, high capability sensors, power system heat rejection, etc. for future spacecraft and planetary habitat systems. Due to the potential to extract heat at significantly higher heat flux levels, oscillating heat pipes (OHP) offer the promise of significantly higher efficiencies compared to conventional heat pipes used on today's spacecraft. However, the underlying liquid-vapor fluid dynamics (distinct liquid plugs and vapor plugs), interfacial phenomena, and two-phase heat transfer in the pulsating flows of OHPs are not well understood. It is imperative that a physical model that can predict the performance of an OHP be developed. As a first step, NASA is seeking proposals for a highly instrumented, ground-based OHP experiment to provide insight into the mechanisms, fundamental processes and governing equations. The resulting high-fidelity data will be used for computational fluid dynamics model validation to better predict OHP performance and limits of operation. NASA is currently funding the development of an advanced OHP computer model at JPL. The experimental data from this project will be provided to the JPL OHP numerical modeling team.

  Specifically, NASA is interested in fundamental experimental research to address some or all of the topics below. The list of needs is given in a somewhat prioritized order. Please note: all OHP proposals **must** include liquid film characterization.

  - Liquid film characterization:
    - liquid film on the wall surrounding vapor plugs
    - dynamics and heat transfer of the liquid film trailing an advancing liquid slug in adiabatic, heated and cooled, slug plug flow. Establish a method to predict liquid film thickness in OHPs with given channel geometry and operational conditions. This may include direct or indirect measurement and theoretical modeling of the liquid film.
  - Oscillation Characteristics: frequency, velocity, etc.
  - Measurement of the ratio of the net heat transfer attributable to latent heat transfer as compared to that from sensible heat transfer.
  - Nucleate boiling characterization, including frequency measurements, and physics in a closed isochoric system.
  - Experimental research that supports or refutes the OHP operational limits published by Drolen and Smoot.[1] This includes the effect of viscous losses on OHP operation, the OHP sonic limit, the swept length limit where the amplitude of oscillation is significantly smaller

[1] B.L. Drolen and C.D. Smoot, "The Performance Limits of Oscillating Heat Pipes: Theory and Validation," Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer, 31, 4, 2017, pp. 920-936.

than the evaporator length, the heat flux limit, and the vapor inertia limit which attempts to define the maximum flow velocity that the slug meniscus can support.

- Experimental and physical research into OHP startup including the effects of surface roughness and initial fluid distribution prior to startup

For any Physical Sciences proposal selected for award, including the three areas of particular interest ("Extraction of Materials from Regolith", "Metamaterials in Soft Matter", and "Oscillating Heat Pipes"), all data must be deposited in the Physical Sciences Informatics Database starting one year after award completion.

The two NASA GRC drop towers described below are also available to augment research investigations. These facilities are typically used to conduct combustion or fluid physics experiments. Please go to link for further information. The Points of Contact for each research area are:
Fluid Physics: John McQuillen, john.b.mcquillen@nasa.gov
Combustion Science: Dan Dietrich, daniel.l.dietrich@nasa.gov
Since there is a cost involved to use these drop towers, please contact the appropriate POC for cost estimates for your proposal.

2.2 second drop tower

https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/facilities/drop/

The 2.2 Second Drop Tower has been used for nearly 50 years by researchers from around the world to study the effects of microgravity on physical phenomena such as combustion and fluid dynamics and to develop technology for future space missions. It provides rapid turnaround testing (up to 12 drops/day) of 2.2 seconds in duration.

5.2 second drop tower

https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/facilities/zero-g/

The Zero Gravity Research Facility is NASA's premier facility for ground based microgravity research, and the largest facility of its kind in the world. It provides researchers with a near weightless environment for a duration of 5.18 seconds. It has been primarily used for combustion and fluid physics investigations.

Implementing Centers: NASA's Physical Sciences Research Program is carried out at the Glenn Research Center (GRC), Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). Further information on physical sciences research is available at: https://science.nasa.gov/biological-physical/programs/physical-sciences

G.2.0: Ames Research Center
Chief Technologist: Harry Partridge, harry.partridge@nasa.gov

1. **Organization/Program:** Entry Systems Modeling Project
2. **Research Title:** Thermal Conductivity Heat Transfer of Porous TPS Materials
3. **Research Overview:** Provide data to allow for the development of models for predicting the effective thermal conductivity of TPS materials of interest to Entry Descent and Landing projects and missions at NASA.
4. **Research Focus:** This proposal seeks heat transfer measurements that can isolate the contributions of solid conduction, gas conduction, and radiation to the overall effective thermal conductivity of porous thermal protection system (TPS) materials for a range of temperatures. These measurements should allow for the radiative heat transfer to be isolated from the conductive heat transfer through a TPS material, allowing for the contribution of each of these heat transfer mechanisms to be characterized independently. The data would then be made available to the TPS materials modeling groups at NASA to improve thermal conductivity models.
5. **Contact**: Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

1. **Organization/Program:** Entry Systems Modeling Project
2. **Research Title:** Measurements for Characterizing In-Depth Spectral Radiative Properties of TPS Materials
3. **Research Overview:** Resolving the reflectance and transmission of radiative heating impinging on TPS materials as a function of wavelength
4. **Research Focus:** Data is needed to validate models for in-depth TPS radiative heating transport models. As radiative heating is specific to certain wavelengths (the relevant wavelengths of which change for different atmospheric compositions), these measurements need to be spectrally resolved to get data at relevant wavelengths. The proposal would need to offer techniques to measure the energy transmitted/reflected to provide an estimate for the flux of photons transmitted/reflected incident upon a TPS material. Materials of relevance could include FiberForm, and Silicon Carbon-based materials.
5. **Contact:** Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

1. **Organization/Program:** Entry Systems Modeling Project
2. **Research Title:** NuSil Coated PICA Material Response in CO2 Environments
3. **Research Overview:** Provide experimental data to characterize the material response of NuSil coated PICA under simulated Martian entry conditions.
4. **Research Focus:** Data is needed to validate models for NuSil coated PICA under simulated Martian entry conditions, with the atmosphere being predominately CO2 and aerothermal environments equivalent to that experienced by Mars 2020 or Mars Science Laboratory. Furthermore, a parametric sweep of conditions would be beneficial to inform model improvements. Relevant facilities for such measurements could include ArcJets or Plasma Torches. Data of interest would include thermocouples imbedded in the PICA and non-intrusive surface temperature measurements. Characterization of the

post-test materials is also of interest. Understanding the material response of NuSil is important to maximize science return for the MEDLI and MEDLI2 instrumentation suites.

5. **Contact:** Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

1. **Organization/Program:** Entry Systems Modeling Project
2. **Research Title:** Deposition of Ablation/Pyrolysis Products on Optical Windows
3. **Research Overview:** Provide experimental data to characterize the deposition of ablation/pyrolysis products on radiometer/spectrometer windows that reduce transmissivity.
4. **Research Focus:** Mars 2020 carried a radiometer on the backshell of the entry vehicle as part of the MEDLI2 instrumentation suite. Pyrolysis and ablation products can be deposited on the radiometer window during entry, and reduce the transmissivity. This reduction in transmissivity is a function of spectral wavelength, and can reduce the signal level reaching the radiometer sensing element. Such a test could be conducted in an ArcJet or Plasma torch either with a scaled approximate model of Mars 2020, or a simplified geometry (e.g. a wedge, backward facing step). Relevant materials for testing include PICA, RTV and SLA 561V. After products have been deposited on the window during a test, these products need to be characterized and the transmissivity of the window measured. These post-test results could either be measured as part of the proposal, or the post-test models sent back to NASA for characterization.
5. **Contact:** Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

1. **Organization/Program:** Entry Systems Modeling Project
2. **Research Title:** Predictive Modeling of Plasma Physics Relevant to High Enthalpy Facilities
3. **Research Overview:** Develop predictive models for arc and plasma processes used in the generation of high enthalpy flows in shock tube and arcjet facilities at NASA.
4. **Research Focus:** This proposal seeks predictive modeling of processes occurring in facilities that generate high-enthalpy flows at NASA, including Arcs and Plasma Torches. The objectives may differ depending on facilities being modeled. For instance, the Electric Arc Shock tube uses an Arc to produce a high velocity shock waves. Acoustic modes in the arc driver may determine velocity profiles in the tube while ionization processes produce radiating species that may heat driven freestream gases. In plasma torches, studies of recombination of Nitrogen and Air plasma flows have relevance for predicted backshell radiation modeling. Modeling in arc jets may improve estimates of enthalpy profile uniformity and mixing of arc gas with add air.
5. **Contact**: Aaron Brandis aaron.m.brandis@nasa.gov

G.3.0 Office of the NASA Chief Medical Officer (OCHMO) and Human Research Program/Space Radiation Element

POCs:
Dr James D. Polk; E: james.d.polk@nasa.gov, P: (202)358-1959
Dr Victor S. Schneider: E: vschneider@nasa.gov, P: (202)358-2204

G.3.1 OCHMO Areas Of Research Interest:

1. Development and elaboration of Functional aids and testing paradigms to measure activity for use by parastronauts during spaceflight. This may include egressing and exiting space capsules and donning and doffing spacesuits and other aids for parastronauts. The European Space Agency is establishing a parastronaut feasibility project. Since NASA offers its international partners access to NASA supported spacecraft and the International Space Station, NASA wants to establish appropriate functional testing measures to determine the time it takes fit astronaut-like subjects compared to fit parastronaut subjects to egress and exit simulated space capsules and simulated donning and doffing spacesuit. Research proposals are sought to establish appropriate functional testing.

2. Evaluation space capsule and spacesuit activity in stable and fit lower or upper extremity amputees and compare their responses to non-amputee fit individuals. The European Space Agency is establishing a parastronaut feasibility project. Since NASA offers its international partners access to NASA supported spacecraft and the International Space Station, NASA wants to obtain research data measuring the time it takes fit astronaut-like subjects compared to fit parastronaut subject to egress and exit simulated space capsules and simulated donning and doffing spacesuit. Research proposals are sought to obtain data measuring the functional testing indicated

G.3.2 Topics from Human Research Program/Space Radiation Element

POCs: Elgart, S Robin (JSC-SK4)[IPA] <shona.elgart@nasa.gov, (281)244-0596
Sishc, Brock J. (JSC-SA211)[WYLE LABORATORIES, INC.] <brock.j.sishc@nasa.gov>

Topic 1: Pilot studies to examine the effects of whole-body irradiation on minipigs.

1) Program: Space Radiation Element/Human Research Program
2) Research Title: Pilot studies to examine the effects of whole-body irradiation on minipigs.
3) Research Overview

Human spaceflight involves exposure to galactic cosmic rays (GCR), solar particle events (SPE), and charged particles trapped in the magnetic field of Earth called the Van Allen Belts. The intensity and quality of space radiation is different than that experienced in terrestrial environments and therefore uncertainties exist in the understanding of the consequences of space radiation exposure. Epidemiological studies of terrestrial radiation-exposed human cohorts such as the atomic bomb survivors, uranium miners, and occupational radiation workers provide insight into the health impacts of radiation exposure, most notably an increased risk of carcinogenesis and cardiovascular disease (CVD).

Because it is unethical to purposely expose human populations to radiation for experimental research, animal models are used to characterize differences between terrestrial radiation and components of the space radiation environment using ground-based analogs. Traditionally, rodent models are predominantly used to conduct this research, however, translation from rodents to human populations is limited due to multiple factors including anatomical, size, lifespan, and genetic differences. Interestingly, in these rodent models a new risk not observed in any human cohorts at relevant doses has emerged. Changes in the central nervous system (CNS) that negatively impact cognitive and behavioral performance have been demonstrated following relevant doses of charged particle irradiation.

Minipigs, which are more similar in lifespan, size, anatomy, and physiology to humans, provide a unique opportunity to better characterize the effects of space radiation exposure particularly for CVD pathogenesis and changes to the CNS that could impact cognitive and behavioral performance. Utilizing minipigs as a model for carcinogenesis is likely not practical due to their long lifespan compared to rodents. **<u>This topic seeks proposals for preliminary pilot studies to establish functional clinically relevant endpoints to examine the health effects of whole-body ionizing radiation exposure in minipigs for CVD, and CNS related endpoints.</u>**

4) Research Focus

The research topic focuses on ground-based proposals studying clinically relevant functional endpoints and relevant biomarkers to understand the effects of whole body ionizing radiation exposure on minipigs with a particular focus on cardiovascular disease (CVD) and central nervous system (CNS) effects that impact cognitive and behavioral performance.

Relevant endpoints include (but are not limited to):

- Cognitive and/or behavioral testing
- Qualitative and quantitative measurements of cardiovascular structure and function as well as microvascular functional changes is desirable.
- Changes in biomarkers of long-term health outcomes relevant to CVD, and CNS outcomes , and carcinogenesis following whole body radiation exposure.
- Functional outcomes relevant to specific human health conditions.

Due to limited time and budget, researchers are encouraged to utilize minimal animal numbers and radiation sources at space-relevant doses (0-5 Gy of photons or proton irradiation) available at home facilities. A successful proposal will not necessitate the use of the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL), the ground analog for space radiation studies, at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Topic 2: Development of tissue chip models to accelerate space radiation research.

1) Program: Space Radiation Element/Human Research Program
2) Research Title: Development of tissue chip models to accelerate space radiation research
3) Research Overview

Human spaceflight involves exposure to galactic cosmic rays (GCR), solar particle events (SPE), and charged particles trapped in the magnetic field of Earth, called the Van Allen Belts. The intensity and quality of this space radiation is different than that experienced in terrestrial environments and therefore uncertainties exist in the understanding of the consequences of space radiation exposure. Epidemiological studies of terrestrial radiation exposed human cohorts such as the atomic bomb survivors, uranium miners, and occupational radiation workers provide insight into the health impacts of radiation exposure most notably an increased risk of carcinogenesis, and cardiovascular disease (CVD). Additionally, a new risk not observed in any human cohorts at relevant doses has emerged. Changes in the central nervous system (CNS) that negatively impact cognitive and behavioral performance have been demonstrated in rodent models following relevant doses of charged particle radiation. However, no human data exists to help understand the effects of charged particle radiation environment experienced in space. Traditionally, NASA's risk models utilize experimental data generated in model systems (human cells, tissues, small animals, etc.) to "scale" radiation risks estimated from terrestrially-exposed human cohorts to the space radiation environment.

Recent breakthroughs in microfluidics, prolonged cell culture, material science, and the ability to differentiate genetically similar cells from induced pluripotent stem cell populations have led to the advancement of tissue- or organ-on-a chip technologies that more closely and accurately recapitulate human tissues *in vitro*. Chip technologies offer a unique opportunity to expand the knowledge base for space radiation exposures at the systems biology and organ levels, however functional endpoints have not yet been established following radiation exposure. Additionally, chip technology has the potential to vastly accelerate translation of animal data to human outcomes, thus providing improved fidelity to the data generated using animal models. **This topic seeks proposals that interrogate the effects of radiation on functional endpoints using human and/or animal tissue- or organ-on-a-chip technologies in one of three research emphases.**

4) Research Focus

This research topic focuses on ground-based proposals studying functional endpoints and relevant biomarkers to understand the effects of ionizing radiation exposure using chip technologies with a particular focus on CVD pathogenesis and/or carcinogenesis. Successful applications will address one of the following three research emphases and will establish appropriate functional endpoints and biomarkers necessary to accelerate space radiation research and its effects on human health.

- Radiation carcinogenesis (tissue/organ systems of interest: breast, lung, liver, colon, and hematopoietic system),
- Microvasculature physiology and functional changes, or
- Comparative translational endpoints between human and rodent tissues focusing on CVD, CNS, or carcinogenesis.

Due to limited time and budget, researchers are encouraged to utilize radiation sources located at home institutions at space relevant doses (0-5 Gy of photons or proton irradiation). A successful proposal will not necessitate the use of the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) at Brookhaven National Laboratory at this phase.

G.4.0 Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD)

POC: Dr. Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov, 216.433.3580
Dr. Cornell, Peggy A. (GRC-KM00), peggy.a.cornell@nasa.gov, 216.387.5138
Dr. Koudelka, John M. (GRC-KM00), john.m.koudelka@nasa.gov, 216.905.5139

G.4.1 Research Title: Safety of Electro-mechanical Powertrains for Electrified Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) Vehicles

Research Overview:
With their unique ability to take off and land from any spot, as well as hover in place, vertical lift vehicles are increasingly being contemplated for use in new ways that go far beyond those considered when thinking of traditional helicopters. NASA's Revolutionary Vertical Lift Technology (RVLT) project is working with partners in government, industry, and academia to develop critical technologies that enable revolutionary new air travel options, especially those associated with Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) such as large cargo-carrying vehicles and passenger-carrying air taxis.
These new markets are forecast to rapidly grow during the next ten years, and the vertical lift industry's ability to safely develop and certify innovative new technologies, lower operating costs, and meet acceptable community noise standards will be critical in opening these new markets.
NASA is conducting research and investigations in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft and operations. AAM missions are characterized by ranges below 300 nm, including rural and urban operations, passenger carrying as well as cargo delivery. Such vehicles will require increased automation and innovative propulsion systems, likely electric or hybrid-electric that may need advanced electro-mechanical powertrain technology.

Research Focus:
Analytical and/or experimental fundamental research is sought for electro-mechanical powertrains for electrified vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicles. The focus is safety, and overall goals are to obtain high power-to-weight with long life and higher reliability than the current state of the art.
The scope includes electric motors and associated power electronics combined with mechanical or magnetically-geared transmissions. Research topics of particular interest are those that focus on:
1) high power density electro-mechanical powertrains;
2) application of advanced materials and manufacturing; and
3) high reliability and robustness for safety-critical propulsion systems.
The target application is eVTOL vehicles sized to carrying four to six passengers with missions as described in References 1-6. Research equipment is available at GRC to support experimental studies for collaborations. The facilities for experiments include full-scale helicopter transmissions and electric motor evaluation test facilities as well as several test rigs for fundamental studies which pertain to lubrication, endurance and fatigue, efficiency, and windage.
This research opportunity is relevant to aerospace propulsion and is of mutual interest to NASA, FAA, DoD, and the US vertical lift vehicle industry.

References:
1) Silva, C.; Johnson, W.; and Solis, E. "Multidisciplinary Conceptual Design for Reduced-Emission Rotorcraft." American Helicopter Society Technical Conference on Aeromechanics Design for Transformative Vertical Flight, San Francisco, CA, January 2018.
2) Johnson, W.; Silva, C.; and Solis, E. "Concept Vehicles for VTOL Air Taxi Operations." American Helicopter Society Technical Conference on Aeromechanics Design for Transformative Vertical Flight, San Francisco, CA, January 2018.
3) Patterson, M.D.; Antcliff, K.R.; and Kohlman, L.W. "A Proposed Approach to Studying Urban Air Mobility Missions Including an Initial Exploration of Mission Requirements." American Helicopter Society 74th Annual Forum, Phoenix, AZ, May 2018.
4) Silva, C.; Johnson, W.; Antcliff, K.R.; and Patterson, M.D. "VTOL Urban Air Mobility Concept Vehicles for Technology Development." AIAA Paper No. 2018-3847, June 2018.
5) Antcliff, K. Whiteside, S., Silva, C. and Kohlman, L. "Baseline Assumptions and Future Research Areas for Urban Air Mobility Vehicles," AIAA Paper No. 2019-0528, January 2019.
6) Silva, C., and Johnson, W. "Practical Conceptual Design of Quieter Urban VTOL Aircraft." Vertical Flight Society 77th Annual Forum, May 2021.

Organization: NASA Glenn Research Center

Contact: Dr. Timothy Krantz, timothy.l.krantz@nasa.gov, 216.433.3580

Mission Directorate: Aeronautic Research Mission Directorate / Advanced Air Vehicles Program/ Revolutionary Vertical Lift Technology Project

Intellectual Property Rights: All data and analysis methods will be publicly available and no intellectual property rights will be assigned to any of the parties involved in this research.

A pre-proposal conference is desired.
Dr. Krantz and colleagues will support a pre-proposal conference. We believe that researchers from Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma may have interest and expertise in this area and be ESPCoR eligible.

G.4.2 Research Title: Impact Testing to Support the Development of an Artificial Bird Material for Aircraft Certification

POCs: Dr. Robert K. Goldberg, Robert.K.Goldberg@nasa.gov, (216) 433-3330
Dr. Justin Littell, Justin.d.littell@nasa.gov, 757.864.5095
Dr. Michael Pereira, mike.pereira@nasa.gov, 216.287.7340

Research Overview:

A. Overview

The certification process for aircraft and engines involves a number of tests that make use of real birds as projectiles to verify that structures can safely withstand an impact. There are several disadvantages to using real birds, including a lack of repeatability, hygiene issues with testing and the requirement for sacrificing an animal. The NASA Glenn Research Center is involved in a process to develop an artificial material that responds in a similar manner as a real bird and that would be accepted by Civil Aviation Authorities as a substitute for real birds in certification testing.

The process for developing a qualified artificial bird material is being done through the SAE G-28 Committee, Simulants for Impact and Ingestion Testing Committee. The process requires conducting a number of tests at different levels of complexity with both real and artificial birds that demonstrate similarity in the two responses. The most basic of the tests, described in the SAE AS6940 Aerospace Standard [1], involves impacting the projectile into the end of a large aluminum cylindrical bar, called a Hopkinson bar, in an axial direction. The bar is in two sections, each 12-inches in diameter and 12-feet long. Strain gages located along the bar record the transient strains produced by the impact, allowing the computation of the impact force history.

NASA is soliciting proposals to conduct tests in accordance with SAE AS6940 with real birds over a range of impact energies (bird impact velocities and masses) that cover the range specified in the SAE G-28 Committee Technical Strategy (available by contacting the committee). Optionally, additional tests can be conducted using an artificial bird material, mutually agreed upon by NASA and the test proposer.

B. Required Tests

The tests involve accelerating a bird, typically with the use of a single stage gas gun, into one end of the Hopkinson bar described in SAE AS6940.

The tests being proposed should fall within the range of velocities and kinetic energies shown in figure 1 and, specifically, the conditions shown in the inset. For each condition three repeats should be conducted. It is recognized that all the conditions identified in figure 1 by may not be achievable within the supplied budget. The number of tests to be conducted and the conditions must be specified in the proposal. Higher priority will be placed on proposals that address the lowest mass (1 kg) bird at the two lower kinetic energies, followed by the medium mass (1.8 kg) bird at higher velocities.

The same species of bird should be used for all tests at a given mass. Bird preparation should be done in accordance with the requirements in ASTM Standard Test Method F-330-16 [2] or its most recent revision. The proposal should include a description of the species of birds and the masses and velocities to be used. It should also include deviations, if any, from the Aerospace Standard.

The award recipient has the option of building and instrumenting the Hopkinson bar, as specified by the AS6940 standard, or including in the budget the cost of round-trip shipment of an existing bar located at the NASA Glenn Research Center.

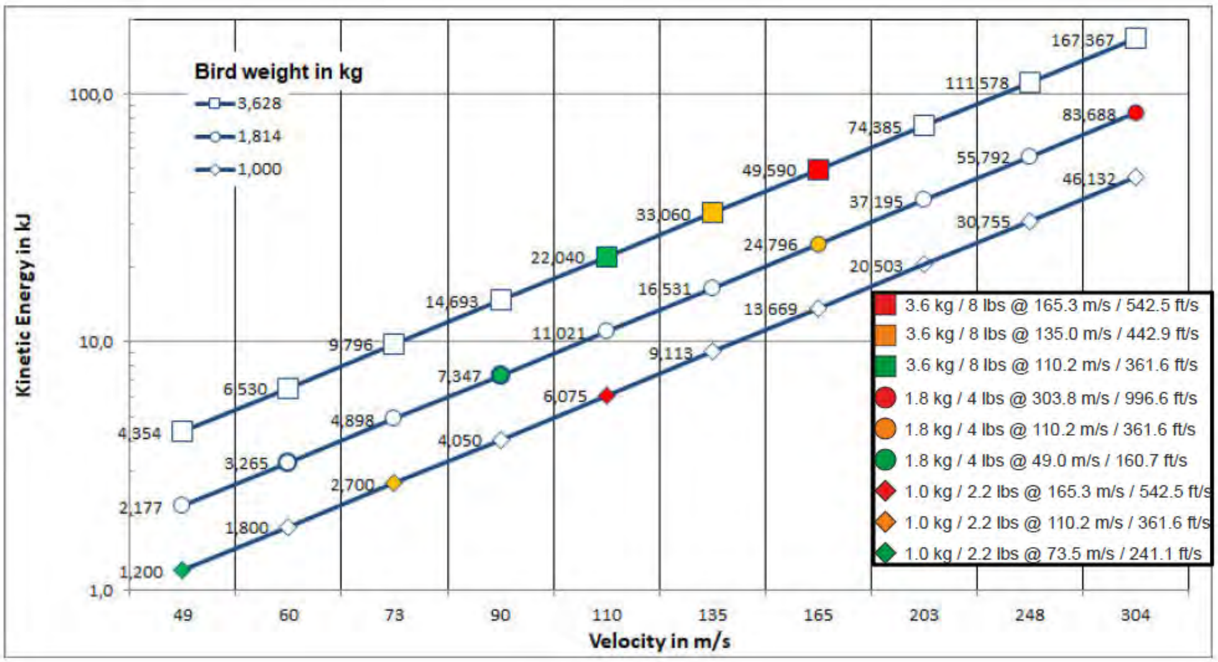


Figure 1. Range of Velocities and Kinetic Energies Relevant to Bird Strike Testing

C. Deliverables
   a. Raw data from the two strain gage bridges, either in the form of strain or converted to force. Data to be in tabulated form as a function of time.
   b. High speed video images from all cameras used in the test
   c. Report summarizing methods, results and conclusions in a format that would be submittable as a NASA Technical Memorandum.

References:

1. Aerospace Standard: "AS6940 Standard Test Method for Measuring Forces During Normal Impact of a Soft Projectile on a Rigid Flat Surface", SAE International, Warrendale PA, 2021
2. ASTM. 2016, "F330-16, Standard Test Method for Bird Impact Testing of Aerospace Transparent Enclosures", West Conshohocken, PA: ASTM International. DOI: 10.1520/F0330-16

Organization: NASA Glenn Research Center/NASA Langley Research Center

Contact: Dr. Mike Pereira, Dr. Robert Goldberg, Dr. Justin Littell

Mission Directorate: Aeronautic Research Mission Directorate / Revolutionary Vertical Lift Technology Project

Intellectual Property Rights: All data and analysis methods will be publicly available and no intellectual property rights will be assigned to any of the parties involved in this research.

G.5.0 Additive Manufacturing of Nuclear Fuels (ceramics)
POC: Jhonathan Rosales (jhonathan.rosales@nasa.gov), 256.961.2491

1) Organization/Program: EM32/ Advanced Metals Processing and Technologies Team

2) Research Title: Additive Manufacturing of Nuclear Fuels (ceramics)

3) Research Overview:

The development of ceramics for high performance applications including energy, defense, aerospace, and nuclear applications is a challenging task in the engineering world. Advanced nuclear fuel designs may bring increased energy outputs, enhanced performance, and sometimes a greater accident tolerance. But some of these ceramic nuclear fuel architectures may not be fabricated under traditional processes employed to mass produce nuclear fuel. Thus, novel methods are being investigated to fabricate ceramic nuclear fuel.
In space nuclear propulsion, ceramic fuel is employed to heat the propellant (liquid hydrogen) to generate thrust and impulse the space vehicle. Some of the main challenges on fabricating this fuel concept are consolidation and the post-processing of near-net-shapes (complex geometries), where machining this robust material can be laborious and expensive, requiring diamond tools. Often times a large fraction of the fabrication has to be allocated to machining. In recent years additive manufacturing (AM) technologies have proved success in reducing production times, produce complex geometries, and bring significant economic savings. Additionally, fabrication of ceramic compounds via AM has been recently researched in different systems of interest including selective laser melting (SLS) and stereolithography (SLA) [1].

4) Research Focus:

Additive Manufacturing (AM) of ceramic nuclear fuels can be a long-term solution to produce the fuel's complex geometries in a scalable and cost-effective process. Direct ink writing (DIW) or Robocasting (RC), where a binder or colloidal gel is deposited on the sample feedstock to form the required geometry can be promising methods to explore AM of ceramic nuclear fuel [2]. Photocuring or heat treatment are crucial for sintering, allowing for densification and reducing porosity. During the heat treatment, the green bodies can significantly increase their density, which is crucial for optimum fuel performance.
A base step is to prove feasibility of fabricating UO_2 which is a highly demanded fuel for nuclear power plants to generate electricity. AM could demonstrate a representative density and microstructural features in surrogate materials including ZrO_2 and CeO_2 [3,4]. Additionally,

NASA's Space Nuclear Propulsion program is exploring carbide fuel to generate propulsion for deep space missions, where UC can be the basis to explore AM feasibility with surrogate material ZrC.
Work with radioactive materials may require strict safety measures, material traceability, and a certified laboratory by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Due to the complexity of working with radioactive materials we will tailor this research effort to surrogate work, where non-radiological materials can be explored to arrive at a proof of concept. AM of nuclear fuels and ceramics can benefit other research areas at NASA, including nuclear electric propulsion, hypersonics, propulsion parts (nozzles), and piezo electric materials.

5) Contact: Jhonathan Rosales (jhonathan.rosales@nasa.gov)

6) References:

1. Travitzky, Nahum, Alexander Bonet, Benjamin Dermeik, Tobias Fey, Ina Filbert-Demut, Lorenz Schlier, Tobias Schlordt, and Peter Greil. "Additive manufacturing of ceramic-based materials." Advanced engineering materials 16, no. 6 (2014): 729-754.
2. Fu, Zongwen, Matthias Freihart, Larissa Wahl, Tobias Fey, Peter Greil, and Nahum Travitzky. "Micro-and macroscopic design of alumina ceramics by robocasting." Journal of the European Ceramic Society 37, no. 9 (2017): 3115-3124.
3. Hunt, Rodney Dale, John D. Hunn, J. F. Birdwell, T. B. Lindemer, and J. L. Collins. "The addition of silicon carbide to surrogate nuclear fuel kernels made by the internal gelation process." Journal of nuclear materials 401, no. 1-3 (2010): 55-59.
4. Roleček, Jakub, Štěpán Foral, Karel Katovský, and David Salamon. "A feasibility study of using CeO_2 as a surrogate material during the investigation of UO_2 thermal conductivity enhancement." Advances in applied ceramics 116, no. 3 (2017): 123-131.

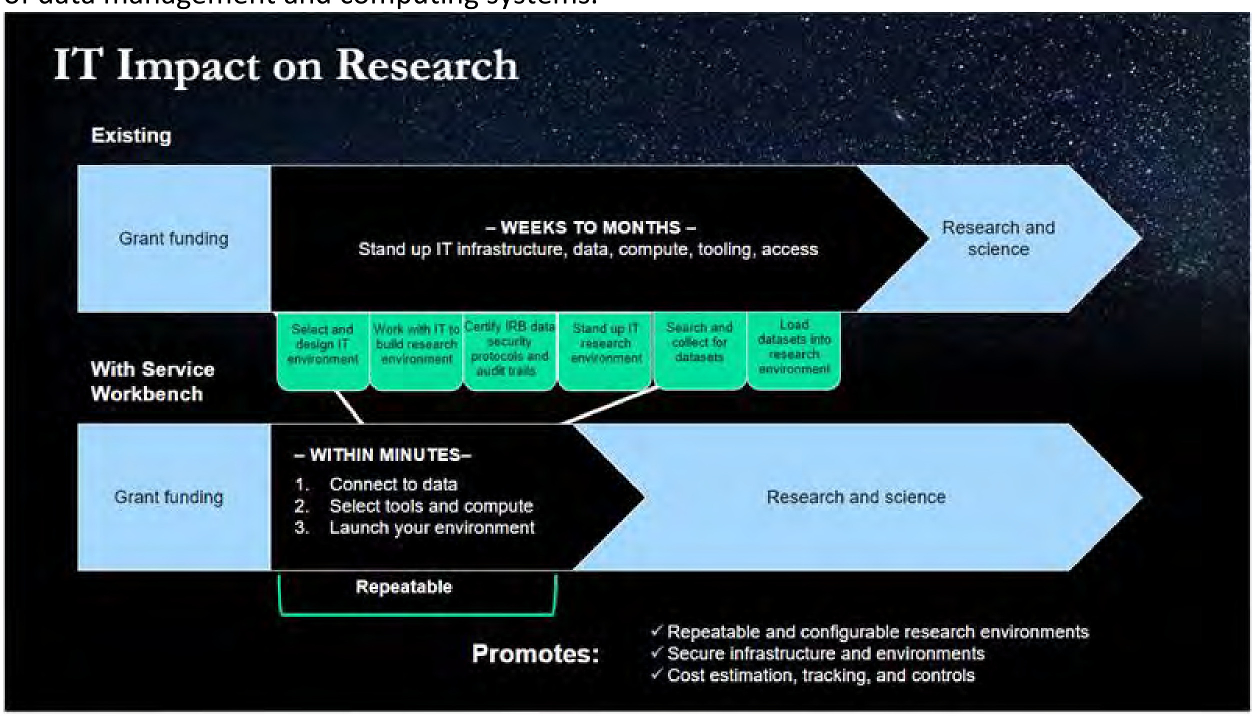
G.6.0 Computational and Information Sciences and Technology Office (CISTO)
POC: James Harrington, james.l.harrington@nasa.gov 301-286-4063

Computational and Technological Advances for Scientific Discovery via AI/ML Modeling and Development implementing an open science approach.
NASA open science promotes the availability of original source code and data to be available on the public domain to be repurposed for easier collaborations to be born among different groups or teams to work towards solving scientific problems that can benefit society.
NASA SMD communicates a VISION via the SMD Big Data Working Group (SBDWG) to enable transformational open science through continuous evolution of science data and computing systems for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. SMD requests that NASA EPSCoR include research opportunities for data analysis that provide tools and training to diverse communities to be better able to collaborate with all types of computational and computer scientists that enables the funding of successful collaborations, including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML).

The SBDWG report states that “SMD and the individual science divisions do not operate in isolation and therefore should recognize there is tremendous value in engaging with multiple stakeholder groups to identify opportunities to increase collaboration and use of advanced tools and techniques to drive scientific discovery. The decisions on when and how to collaborate should be made in such a way that SMD sets policies and facilitates sharing best practices, while providing the science divisions with responsibility and flexibility to manage their systems to meet the needs of their communities.

One such strategy to support this VISION is promoting a robust Citizen Science program recommended by the SMD Science Management Council approved by the SMD Associate Administrator. SMD citizen science projects shall be held to the same rigorous standards as any SMD science program. Documented project goals must include advances in science, the merit of which shall be determined by peer review.

Additionally, the SBDWG report communicates a goal to: Continuously Evolve Data and Computational Systems **-** SMD must therefore continuously evolve data and computational systems to realize the potential of innovative techniques to more efficiently manage data and computing resources and establish policies optimized to support investments in technology development and adoption. This will require investments in data systems, computational approaches, and the workforce that harnesses technology are needed to support the evolution of data management and computing systems.



This Appendix opportunity is designed to facilitate the continuous progress towards the SMD goals for open science via targeting data analysis opportunities for Heliophysics Citizen Science, one of the SMD Science Themes to increase science returns that are to be held to the same rigorous standards as any SMD science program while facilitating advancements in agency resources for continuously optimizing techniques and computing resources for more efficient data science research. An additional responsiveness component is for broadening participation of underrepresented audiences.

Broadening Participation of traditionally underrepresented audiences
Former NASA Administrator James Bridenstine communicated a diversity agenda for the agency that is continued today: “We embrace the critical importance of cultivating and empowering a diverse and inclusive workforce and work environment-enabling NASA to attract the widest and deepest pools of talent, leverage the capabilities of our exceptional workforce; and empower all personnel to be authentic, to participate, and to fully contribute. We understand this provides NASA access to the highest levels of knowledge, capabilities, creativity, problem solving, decision making, and performance. And this will enable NASA to achieve the greatest mission success.”
A proposal that is fully responsive to this opportunity must establish a research, education, training and capacity building collaboration strategy that includes:

1. Majority/Minority lead institution partners with MSI (HBCU, HSI, Tribal College) within EPSCoR jurisdiction or across another EPSCoR jurisdiction;
2. Majority/Minority lead institution partners with a Community College within EPSCoR jurisdiction or across another EPSCoR jurisdiction;
3. Majority/Minority lead institution partners with another Majority/Minority institution with a focus on including ethnic minority students.

Or some type of mixture of any of the three.

NASA Contact:
a. Name: James Harrington
b. Organization: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
c. Work Phone: 301-286-4063
d. Email: james.l.harrington@nasa.gov

G.7.0: Supporting Heliophysics Citizen Science Goals through Data Partnerships

POC: Elizabeth MacDonald, elizabeth.a.macdonald@nasa.gov, 505-920-7602

1) Program: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Capability

2) Research Title: Supporting Heliophysics Citizen Science Goals through Data Partnerships

3) Research Overview:
The Science Mission Directorate Heliophysics Division studies the nature of the Sun, and how it influences the very nature of space — and, in turn, the atmospheres of planets and the technology that exists there. Space is not, as is often believed, completely empty; instead, we live in the extended atmosphere of an active star. Studying this system not only helps us understand fundamental information about how the universe works, but also helps protect our technology and astronauts in space. NASA seeks knowledge of near-Earth space, because --

when extreme -- space weather can interfere with our communications, satellites and power grids. The study of the Sun and space can also teach us more about how stars contribute to the habitability of planets throughout the universe.

Citizen science in Heliophysics has a balanced strategy and implementation plan that maximizes natural opportunities over the next five years. Our Vision is to leverage public participation in Heliophysics to help drive innovation and diversity in science, society, and education and our Mission is to build a robust, dynamic, and engaging Heliophysics citizen science portfolio that fuses natural phenomena, mission opportunities, and the power of people's diverse viewpoints to fuel collective innovation. To achieve our Mission, a number of inter-related Objectives build momentum towards our goals to Grow, Execute, Innovate, Communicate, Optimize, and Partner. There is an opportunity to achieve this vector of opportunities in our strategic plan to its fullest implementation and we look forward to pursuing this here. We are looking to advance this Vision by building new partnerships and capacity between existing citizen science projects, achieving our vision and the data science interest of this call. More about our strategy can be found here: https://science.nasa.gov/heliophysics/programs/citizen-science

4) Research Focus:
Citizen Science programs are a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process. The current SMD Policy (https://smd-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/SPD%2033%20Citizen%20Science.pdf) on citizen science describes standards for evaluating proposed and funded SMD citizen science projects. For more information see the https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience webpage, that provides information about existing launched SMD-funded projects. Other projects may be eligible if approved by the NASA Contact. Specific interests include the analysis of data that could lead to original discoveries from space Heliophysics missions or citizen science ground-based data. This could include the compilations of data catalogs, statistical studies, algorithms and pattern recognition, artificial intelligence applications, development of data pipelines, etc. These tools should be demonstrated against a specific use case. The proposal should also explain how this might be expanded for other use cases. Existing Heliophysics citizen science projects will be invited to the pre-proposal workshop to present their science target, existing project, and related data needs appropriate to the scope of this call. You may request the NASA Contact to put your team in contact with a specific project and to offer specific skills earlier if you wish. Existing Heliophysics citizen science projects involve solar data, solar observing, comets that orbit the sun, eclipse observing, solar radio data, ionospheric radio data, Jovian radio data, magnetospheric data analysis and sonification, the aurora, and sprite lights in the mesosphere.

5) NASA Contact: a. Name: James Harrington/Elizabeth MacDonald b. Organization: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center c. Work Phone: 301-286-4063, 505-920-7602 d. Email: james.l.harrington@nasa.gov; elizabeth.a.macdonald@nasa.gov

6) Additional Information: In 2017, we saw millions in the US captivated by the first total solar eclipse of the millennium. In 2023-4, we have the opportunity to convert a generation to

Heliophysics Science by experiencing two solar eclipses during solar maximum through citizen science as a gateway to our missions and science. As part of a larger strategic initiative called the “Heliophysics Big Year” to grow and innovate Heliophysics citizen science, we are planning a campaign designed to achieve a broader vision for Heliophysics utilizing these natural opportunities coinciding with the rise of citizen science within SMD. What is a “Big Year”? A big year is a birding term for maximizing a birder’s number of species. We envision utilizing the recognition of a big year(s) to tie the three major Heliophysics events together and encourage the maximization of participation and data collection in a coordinated incentivized branded campaign. Proposals with geographic or skills based alignment with this HBY opportunity may explain in the proposal.

G.8.0 SMD Astrophysics

POCs: Dr. Hashima Hasan, hhasan@nasa.gov, (202) 358-0692
Dr. Mario Perez, mario.perez@nasa.gov, 202.358.1535

TECHNOLOGY:

- Astrophysics Technology Development: https://apd440.gsfc.nasa.gov/technology.html
- Technology Highlights: https://science.nasa.gov/technology/technology-highlights?topic=11
- Astrophysics Technology Database: http://www.astrostrategictech.us/

ASTROPHYSICS DATA CENTERS:

- https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/astrophysics-data-centers

DOCUMENTS:

- Astrophysics Documents: https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/documents

DECADAL SURVEY 2020:

- Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics 2020 (Astro 2020): https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/decadal-survey-on-astronomy-and-astrophysics-2020-astro2020

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS:

- Current projects: https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience

RESEARCH SOLICITATIONS:

- Omnibus NASA Research Announcement (NRA): https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/grant-solicitations/roses-2021/schedule-research-opportunities-space-and-earth-sciences-roses-2021

G.9.0 NASA SMD Planetary Science Division

POCs: Adriana C. Ocampo Uria PhD, adriana.c.ocampo@nasa.gov, (202) 358-2152
Carolyn Mercer, PhD, cmercer@nasa.gov, (216) 433-3411

H.1.0 Venus has important scientific relevance to understanding Earth, the Solar System formation, and Exoplanets. For EPSCoR technology projects, Venus' highly acidic surface conditions are also a unique extreme environment with temperatures (~900F or 500C at the surface) and pressures (90 earth atmospheres or equivalent to pressures at a depth of 1 km in Earth's oceans). Furthermore, information on Venus' challenging environmental needs for its exploration can be found on the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) website: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/.

Technology requirements and challenges related to Venus exploration are discussed in the Venus Technology Roadmap at: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/reports/Venus-Technology-Plan-140617.pdf

Technology development is sought for the following two applications:

G.9.1 High-Temperature Subsystems and Components for Long-Duration (months) Surface Operations: Advances in high-temperature electronics and power generation would enable long-duration missions on the surface of Venus operating for periods as long as a year, where the sensors and all other components operate at Venus' surface ambient temperature. These advances are needed for both the long-duration lander and the lander network. Development of high-temperature electronics, sensors, thermal control, mechanisms, and the power sources designed for operating in the Venus ambient would be enabling for future missions.

For example, Venus surface landers could investigate a variety of open questions that can be uniquely addressed through in-situ measurements. The Venus Exploration Roadmap describes a need to investigate the structure of Venus's interior and the nature of current activity, and potentially conduct the following measurements: a. Seismology over a large frequency range to constrain interior structure; b. Heat flow to discriminate between models of current heat loss; and c. Geodesy to determine core size and state.

G.9.2 Aerial Platforms for Missions to Measure Atmospheric Chemical and

Physical Properties:

- Venus provides an important scientific link to Earth, Solar System formation, and to Exoplanets. This EPSCoR call is made for technology projects, which take into consideration Venus' middle atmosphere conditions and its unique extreme environment. The call concentrates on the challenge to develop an aerial platform that would survive the conditions of the Venusian middle atmosphere. It is worth noting that in the middle atmosphere of Venus (79km to 45Km), the conditions are considerably more benign than its surface conditions. This EPSCoR call will focus on Variable Manurable (horizontally and vertically) altitude balloons or hybrid airship, or aerobots (buoyancy + lift). The top technical parameters to consider for the Extreme Environment Aerobot for Venus conditions are:
- Altitude: Maintain 79km to 45km Altitude (avoids high temps)
- Structure: Airframe & Materials compatible with acids (PH -1.3 to 0.5). The cloud pH varies from about 0.5 at the top (65 km) to -1.3 at the base (48 km).
- Power source: Solar and/or Batteries
- Navigation: provide, Guidance & Control concepts
- Science Instruments: for atmosphere and ground remote sensing
- Lifetime: weeks to months
- Pressure and temperature range: 80mb-1.3bar, with pressure at 65 km (245Kelvin or -28C) from Pioneer Large probe measured 80 mb and at 48 km (385 Kelvin or 112C) is approximately 1.3 bar. At 60 deg. latitude the pressure at 65 km is about 70 mb and temperature is about 222 K (-51C).
- Winds: Vertical shear of horizontal wind, up to 5-10 m/s per km

Reference material:

Further Information on Venus's challenging environment needs, for its exploration, can be found on the Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG) website:
https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/.
"Aerial Platforms for the Scientific Exploration of Venus" report (JPL) Aug 2018.
In particular, the technology requirements and challenges related to Venus exploration are discussed in the Venus Technology Roadmap at:
https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/reports/Venus-Technology-Plan-140617.pdf

NASA Contact

a. Name: Adriana Ocampo
b. Organization: SMD/Planetary Science
c. Work Phone: 202.358.2152
d. Cell Phone: 202 372 7058
e. Email: adriana.c.ocampo@nasa.gov
a. Name: Carolyn Mercer
b. Organization: SMD/Planetary Science
c. Work Phone: 216.433.3411
d. Cell Phone: 216.905.1987
e. Email: cmercer@nasa.gov

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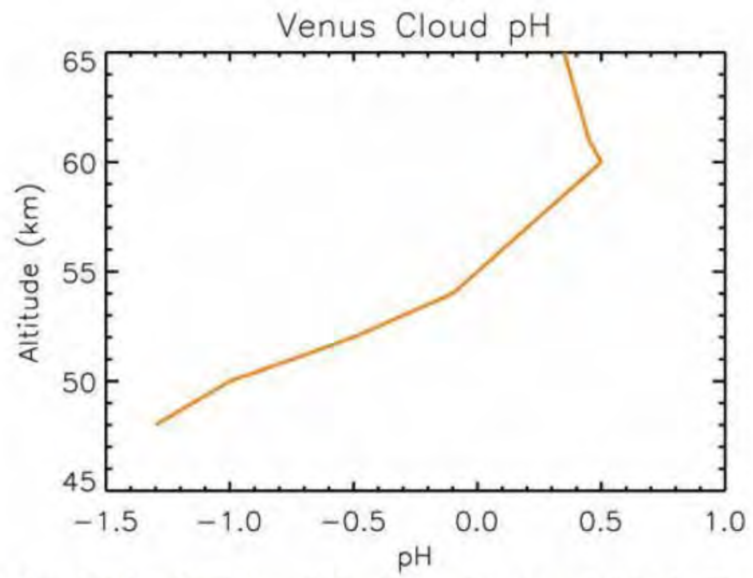

Plate 2. The pH of Venus' clouds as a function of altitude. The relatively water-rich aerosols in the upper cloud have a small range of positive pH, from 0.3 to 0.5. In the lower cloud, with its larger and more water-poor particles, pH can be as low as -1.3. Aerosol H_2SO_4 concentrations were calculated using the cloud model of Bullock and Grinspoon (2001), constrained by PV data. Correction for high activities is from Nordstrum et al. (2000).