

May 2023 Schedule Update: Astrophysics Probe Announcement of Opportunity Community Announcement

The NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has released a third Community Announcement via www.SAM.gov notice ID NNH22ZDA008L concerning its intention to solicit investigations for the Astrophysics Probe Program.

As announced at the March 29-30, 2023, NASA Astrophysics Advisory Committee meeting, the planned Astrophysics Probe Announcement of Opportunity (AO) proposal submission date and the length of the competitive Phase A are changing in order to provide more time for proposal preparation and to provide for a longer Phase A duration. Presentations with this information are available at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/nac/science-advisory-committees/apac> entitled “NASA Astrophysics Update” and “Astrophysics Explorers Update.” In addition, the schedule now includes an indication of the general timing for submission of the Mandatory Notice of Intent to Propose. All other information contained in the second Community Announcement, available from the “Community Announcements” section of the Astrophysics Probe Acquisition website <https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2023APPROBE/>, remains unchanged. Please also see the Q&As posted at the same website for additional information.

The schedule for the forthcoming AO is intended to be:

Release of this third notice	May 10 2023
Release of draft AO:	August 16, 2022
Release of final AO:	July 2023 (target)
Preproposal conference:	~ 3 weeks after final AO release
Mandatory Notice of Intent to Propose Deadline	AO Release + 6 weeks
Proposals due:	NET mid-November 2023
Selection for competitive Phase A studies:	Mid 2024 (target)
Concept study reports due:	Mid 2025 (target)
Down-selection:	Late 2025 (target)

The Final Astrophysics Probe AO may contain provisions that differ substantially from this special notice, in which case the provisions in the AO will take precedence. To find the full draft AO text, visit <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/>, select “Solicitations” at the top of the page and search on “NNH22ZDA015J” or use this direct link <https://go.nasa.gov/Hertz15>. However, proposers must read carefully the Final Astrophysics Probe AO when it is released on NSPIRES.

NASA has not approved the issuance of the Final Astrophysics Probe AO, and this community announcement does not obligate NASA to issue the AO and solicit proposals. Any costs incurred by prospective investigators in preparing submissions in response to this announcement or the Draft Astrophysics Probe AO are incurred completely at the submitter's own risk.

The Science Office for Mission Assessment (SOMA) will post further information, as it becomes available, at <https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2023APPROBE/>. Questions and feedback on the policies in this special notice may be addressed by email with “Astrophysics Probe” in the

subject header to Dr. Patricia Knezek, Astrophysics Probe Program Lead Scientist, Astrophysics Division, patricia.m.knezek@nasa.gov.

Questions and feedback will be acknowledged, and responses to inquiries will be posted at the Questions and Answers (Q&A) location on the Astrophysics Probe Acquisition website. Anonymity of persons or institutions submitting questions will be preserved.