

2023 Astrophysics Probe Explorer (APEX) Announcement of Opportunity (AO) Final Text Released

Number: NNH23ZDA021O
Release Date: July 31, 2023
Pre-Proposal Conference Date: mid-August 2023 (Target)
Mandatory Notice of Intent to Propose Due: September 13, 2023 11:59 pm ET
Proposals Due: November 16, 2023 11:59 pm ET
Direct Short URL: <https://go.nasa.gov/apex2023ao>

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is announcing via this email the release of the final text for the Announcement of Opportunity (AO) entitled *2023 Astrophysics Probe Explorer* (APEX). To find the full text, visit NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES), <https://nspires.nasaprs.com/>, and select “Solicitations” at the top of the page, and on the next page in the search box, input the number “NNH23ZDA021O” or use the direct short URL listed above. In the event of any lapse in NASA operations, please visit NSPIRES for further information.

The National Academies’ 2020 Decadal Survey in Astronomy and Astrophysics, *Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s* at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/26141/pathways-to-discovery-in-astronomy-and-astrophysics-for-the-2020s>, recommended probe missions to be competed in the broad areas identified as important to accomplish the survey’s scientific goals. For the coming decade, the Decadal Survey recommended a far-infrared mission or an X-ray mission. Responses to the Astrophysics Probe Explorer AO will be limited to one of the two mission themes recommended by the Decadal Survey. These areas are

- A far infrared imaging or spectroscopy mission, and
- An X-ray probe.

Proposals must be responsive to the preponderance of the mission theme's objectives as provided in Sections 7.5.3.2 through 7.5.3.4 of the Decadal Survey.

Participation is open to all categories of organizations or institutions, U.S. or non-U.S., including educational, industrial, and not-for-profit institutions, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), NASA Centers, and other Government agencies. Non-U.S. organizations may participate on a no-exchange-of-funds basis. Both U.S. and non-U.S. participation are subject to China restrictions described in Sections 4.2.2 Restrictions Involving China and 5.6.1 Overview of Non-U.S. Participation of the AO.

The Science Office for Mission Assessments (SOMA) hosts the official “2023 Astrophysics Probe Explorer (APEX)” AO website that provides further information, including Program Library and Question and Answer (Q&A) pages at <https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2023APPROBE/>. Anonymity of persons/institutions who submit questions will be preserved. Proposers are encouraged to send comments and questions early so that they may be addressed at the virtual Preproposal Conference (PPC). Please consult the

SOMA website for the PPC's date, forthcoming agenda, and connection information. In order for questions to be addressed during the PPC, they should be submitted only by email one week prior to the event. SOMA will post the PPC presentations. Answers to questions addressed at the conference will be posted in the Q&A section of the 2023 APEX website.

The final deadline for all questions is fourteen (14) days before the proposal due date. Please address comments or questions on the AO only via email using subject line "APEX 2023 AO" to both the APEX Lead Program Scientist, Dr. Patricia M. Knezek, at patricia.m.knezek@nasa.gov, and the APEX Lead Technical, Management, and Cost (TMC) Acquisition Manager, Mr. Victor Lucas, at victor.f.lucas@nasa.gov.

All interested parties must read the APEX 2023 AO carefully. All proposals to this AO must comply with the requirements, constraints, and guidelines contained within the AO, as there are changes from the AO's draft text. Any costs incurred in preparing submissions in response to this email or to the full AO are incurred completely at the submitter's own risk.