

Update on Earth Science “Earth System Explorers” Announcement of Opportunity 2nd Community Announcement

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate (SMD) is reactivating and amending the original SAM.gov special notice ID [NNH22ZDA002L](#) to release this second update on the Earth Science “Earth System Explorers” (ESE) Announcement of Opportunity (AO). Subject to funding availability, the updated schedule for the solicitation is:

Release of draft AO:	November 2022 (target)
Release of final AO:	March 2023 (target)
Preproposal conference:	~ 2 weeks after final AO release
Proposals due:	~ 90 days after AO release
Selection for competitive Phase A studies:	April 2024 (target)
Concept study reports due:	January 2025 (target)
Down-selection:	July 2025 (target)

NASA has not approved the issuance of the Earth System Explorer Announcement of Opportunity and this second Community Announcement does not obligate NASA to issue the final AO and solicit proposals. Any costs incurred by prospective investigators in preparing submissions in response to this Community Announcement are incurred at the submitter's own risk.

NASA expects to solicit concepts that include one or more of the [2017 Decadal Survey](#) Earth System Explorer Targeted Observables, with Greenhouse Gases a likely emphasis for one of those selections. The forthcoming draft Earth Science Earth System Explorer AO may contain provisions that differ from this preliminary community announcement (CA). The provisions in the final AO will take precedence over both this CA and the draft AO. The Earth Science Earth System Explorer AO will be based on the Standard PI-led Mission AO Template available at http://soma.larc.nasa.gov/standardao/sao_templates.html. Proposers should read the Draft Earth Science Earth System Explorer AO carefully when it is released.

The current planning is for the selection process to be done in two steps. In Step 1, NASA may select as many as four (4) mission proposals for nine-month-long Phase A concept studies. Each concept study may be funded up to \$5M in real year dollars. For Step 2, NASA will conduct a detailed review of the Phase A Concept Study Reports. As a result of this second evaluation, NASA may select up to two Earth Science Explorer missions to proceed into Phase B and subsequent mission phases.

Comments or questions about the intention to release an Earth Science Explorer AO may be addressed only by email to the Earth Science Explorer Program Scientist: Dr. Thorsten Markus at Thorsten.Markus@nasa.gov subject line “ESE AO 2nd Community Announcement”. Depending on the nature of the question(s), NASA may respond on an individual basis by email or may post responses at the Questions & Answers (Q&As) location of the Explorer Program Acquisition website at <https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/2022ESE/>; anonymity of persons/institutions who submit questions will be preserved.