Explorers Program Overview

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2016 Explorers Astrophysics
SMEX and MO Phase A Kick-off

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Explorers Program Overview

- NASA’s oldest, continuous program
  - Over 100 successful missions since 1958

- Program Objective—Frequent flight opportunities for world-class scientific investigations

- Uncoupled program of missions with unique science capabilities supporting heliophysics and astrophysics science goals
Mission class characterized by size, schedule, and budget cost caps
- MIDEX
- SMEX
- UNEX
- Mission of Opportunity

Missions solicited through Announcement of Opportunity

Missions developed in Principal Investigator mode

Program Management oversight provided by the Explorers Program Office at GSFC
Mission Development Responsibilities

- **NASA responsibility**
  - Program administration
  - Insight/oversight
  - Project review process
  - Technical authority
  - Launch vehicle procurement

- **PI responsibility**
  - Level-1 science requirements
  - Mission implementation
  - Technical, cost, and schedule performance
  - Peer reviews
  - Safety and mission assurance
    - MAIP - Mission Assurance Implementation Plan (response to AO Explorers Mission Assurance Requirements)