

## 2026 Astrophysics Small Explorer (SMEX) Announcement of Opportunity Program Library Change Log

This document may be found in the 2026 Astrophysics SMEX Program Library, at <https://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/APSMEX26/SMEX/programlibrary.html>, by selecting “View Change Log”.

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June 16, 2026: Removed link to Science Directorate Policy Document (SPD-31), which is under revision.

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June 5, 2026: Updated guidance for DSS architectures, removed prior project plan example, and added guidance for use of COTS EEEE Parts on SMD projects.

- Under section: *PROGRAM SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS*
    - Updated Item 20.c with Rev 1 of *Guidance for Distributed Satellite Systems (DDS) Architectures for Class D Missions*
    - Removed prior Item 20.e *TROPICS Project Plan*, which was not referenced in the AO and not directly relevant.
    - Added new Item 20.e *Guidance for Use of Commercial EEEE Parts in [SMD] Class D Missions*
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May 28, 2026 (rev 1): Added guidance for generation of driving requirements and included a Quad chart template.

- Under section: *PROGRAM SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS*
    - Added Item 23, *Guidance for the Driving Requirements Appendix for 2026 Astrophysics Small Explorer Proposals*
    - Added Item 24, *Quad Chart Template and Instructions for APSMEX 2026*
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May 12, 2026: Significant update to the Program Library with multiple additions, changes and deletions.

- Under section: *STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS*
  - Item 1 now reads “1. *NASA Strategic Plan*, NPD 1001.0D” and links to latest plan.
  - Item 2 now reads “2. *2025-2026 update to the NASA Science Plan: A Vision for Scientific Excellence*” and links to the updated plan.
  - Item 4 (*Astrophysics roadmap*) file link was updated.
- Under section *PROGRAM SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS*

- Removed “3. *Criteria and Requirements for the Phase A Concept Study, DRAFT*”, which is no longer applicable. Marked as “3. (REMOVED)” to hold the place for tracking purposes.
- Item 4.c now reads: “*Launch Services Program Pre-Launch Readiness Reviews, NPD-8610.24C-chg3*” and link is updated to reflect the “change 3” file.
- Updated item 5.a, *Spectrum Usage Guidance*
- Removed item 5.b, *Available Spectrum and Channel Limits by Allocated Service*; left placeholder “(REMOVED)” to maintain sequence.
- Replaced missing link in item 5.f.v. to the SES Brochure.
- Item 6 was updated to most recent version of the *SMD Policy Document on Student Collaboration*, SPD-31.
- Item 10 was updated with latest set of Excel versions of the template tables in the AO.
- Item 14 was updated with FY26 “new-start” inflation index.
- Under section *NASA and Federal Documents*
  - Item 1 was updated to include the latest revision of NPR 7120.F, which is currently NASA Interim Directive (NID) 7120-148.
  - Item 8 was updated to reflect a revision of the *Risk Classification for NASA Payloads*, NPR 8705.4B.
  - Item 17.a was updated to replace *HANDBOOK FOR THE MICROBIAL EXAMINATION OF SPACE HARDWARE*, NASA-HDBK-6022.
  - Item 17.b was updated to include “change 1” of the *Planetary Protection Provisions for Robotic Extraterrestrial Missions*, NPR 8715.24 (change1)
  - Item 18 was updated with latest version of NPD\_8074-1 with change 2, showing extended expiration date to 2032.
  - Item 19 was updated to reflect the latest version of the Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules, FIPS 140-3 (previously 140-2).
  - Added section 23 (new) for EEE Parts documents, including items a-e, providing assurance standards, guidance on use of COTS parts, avionics radiation hardness guidelines, and a supplemental guidance on usage of EEE COTS parts.
  - Added item 24 (new) for Spacecraft Conjunction Analysis and Collision Avoidance for Space Environment Protection, NPR 8079.1.
- Under section *Additional NASA and Federal Documents*
  - Updated link to NPR 1600.1A to reflect Change 1.
  - Updated link to NPD 1360.2B to reflect Change 2.
  - Removed NPD 5101.32E, *Procurement, Financial Assistance* due to cancellation, with no superseding document found.
  - Updated the link to NPR 8580.1A, *Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114*.
  - Updated the link to NPD 8610.12H, *Orbital Transportation Services*.

- Updated the hyperlink to the NASA Technical Reports Server (NTRS).
  - Added a link to the *NASA FAR Supplement Companion Guide*.
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April 24, 2026: Added new spectrum guidance document

- Added: Prog05a\_SOMA Spectrum Guidance Document for AO Proposers.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5a “[SOMA Spectrum Guidance Document for AO Proposers](#)”.
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April 16, 2025: NASA15\_OCE-51\_rev1.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “15. NASA Spacecraft Conjunction Assessment and Collision Avoidance Best Practices Handbook, OCE-51 Rev 1”.

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March 4, 2025: Prog22\_SPD-47\_Initiating\_Contributions\_to\_International\_Partnerled\_Missions.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “22. [Initiating Contributions to International Partner-led Missions](#), SPD-47”.

March 4, 2025: Prog05\_SCaN-MOCS-0001-Rev\_5\_final.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents items “5. [Space Communications and Navigation \(SCaN\) Mission Operations and Communications Services \(MOCS\)](#), Rev 5, effective 12/01/2023”.

March 4, 2025: Prog05fvii\_inmarsat-csp-brochure.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item “5f vii. [Inmarsat Brochure](#)”.

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February 26, 2025: NASA22\_NPR\_8715\_26.pdf posted for NASA and Federal Documents item “22. [Nuclear Flight Safety](#), NPR 8715.26”.

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February 20, 2025: Prog04\_APSMEX25\_L SIS-20250219.pdf posted for Program Specific Documents item “4. [NASA Launch Services Information Summary – \(LSIS\)](#)”.

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February 14, 2025: Prog10\_APSMEX25-AO-Tables\_13Feb2025.xlsx posted as an update to Program Specific Documents item “10. [Microsoft Excel version of the template tables in the AO](#) to reflect new version of document.

Table B1: Example Science Traceability Matrix

Table B2: Example Mission Traceability Matrix  
Table B3a: Total Mission Cost RY\$ Profile Template [Step 2 only]  
Table B3b: Total Mission Cost FY\$ Profile Template Table B5:  
Master Equipment List”.

February 14, 2025:

Prog21\_SPD37\_Principles\_for\_Collaboration\_on\_Missions\_with\_International\_Partners.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “21. [Principles for Collaboration on Missions with International Partners](#), SPD-37”.

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January 31, 2025: Link to 2020 Astrophysics Decadal Survey posted as Strategic Documents item “3. Astrophysics Decadal 2020: *Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s* (2021), may be accessed at <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26141/pathways-to-discovery-in-astronomyand-astrophysics-for-the-2020s>.”

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January 23, 2025: Placeholder in Program Specific Documents item “6. [SMD Policy Document on Student Collaboration](#), SPD-31 (pending update)”.

January 23, 2025: Prog03\_APSMEX25\_DRAFT\_CandR-20250124.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “3. [Criteria and Requirements for the Phase A Concept Study](#) – DRAFT”.

January 23, 2025: Placeholder in Strategic Documents item “4. [Astrophysics roadmap, Enduring Quests Daring Visions, NASA Astrophysics in the Next Three Decades](#) (pending update)”.

January 23, 2025: Placeholder in Strategic Documents item “3. Astrophysics Decadal 2020: *Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s* (pending update)”

January 23, 2025: Placeholder in Strategic Documents item “2. [Science 2020-2024: A Vision of Scientific Excellence](#) (pending update)”.

January 23, 2025: Placeholder in Strategic Documents item “1. [NASA Strategic Plan](#), (pending update)”.

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December 31, 2024: NASA21\_NPR\_7150\_2D.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “21. [NASA Software Engineering Requirements](#), NPR 7150.2D”.

December 31, 2024: NASA20\_NASA-STD-8739\_8B.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “20. [Standard for Software Assurance and Software Safety](#), NASASTD-8739.8B”.

December 31, 2024: NASA19\_FIPS\_140-2.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “19. [Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules](#), FIPS 140-2”.

December 31, 2024: NASA18\_NPD\_8074\_1.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “18. [Management and Utilization of NASA's Space Communication and Navigation Infrastructure](#), NPD 8074.1 w/Change 2”.

December 31, 2024: Items posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “17. Planetary Protection Documents”.

December 31, 2024: NASA17a\_NPD\_8700\_1F.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item 17.”a. [NASA Policy for Safety and Mission Success](#), NPD 8700.1F”.

December 31, 2024: NASA17b\_NPR\_8715\_0024.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item 17.”b. [Planetary Protection Provisions for Robotic Extraterrestrial Missions](#), NPR 8715.24”.

December 31, 2024: NASA17c\_NASA-STD-8719\_27.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item 17.”c. [Implementing Planetary Protection Requirements for Space Flight](#), NASA-STD-8719.27”.

December 31, 2024: NASA17d\_NASA-HDBK-6022b.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item 17.”d. [NASA Handbook for the Microbiological Examination of Space Hardware](#), NASA-HDBK-6022”.

December 31, 2024: NASA16\_MRPP\_CPS\_Candidate\_Protection\_Strategies-v4\_520201216.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “16. [Candidate Protection Strategies](#), MRPP.CPS.20201216 Version 4.5”.

December 31, 2024: NASA15\_OCE-51.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “15. [NASA Spacecraft Conjunction Assessment and Collision Avoidance Best Practices Handbook](#), OCE-51”.

December 31, 2024: NASA14\_NIST\_SP\_800-53r5.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “14. [Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations](#), NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 5”.

December 31, 2024: NASA13\_STD-1006A.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “13. [Space System Protection Standard](#), NASA-STD-1006A”.

December 31, 2024: NASA12\_NPR\_7120\_8A.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “12. [NASA Research and Technology Program and Project Management Requirements](#), NPR 7120.8A (Revalidated w/change 5)”.

December 31, 2024: NASA11\_NASA\_PlanForIncreasingAccessToScientificResearch.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “11. [NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research](#)”.

December 31, 2024: NASA10\_NPR\_2200\_2E.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “10. [Requirements for Documentation, Approval and Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Information](#), NPR 2200.2E”.

December 31, 2024: NASA09\_NPD\_2521\_1B.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “9. [Communications and Material Review](#), NPD 2521.1B”.

December 31, 2024: NASA08\_NPR\_8705\_4A.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “8. [Risk Classification for NASA Payloads](#), NPR 8705.4A”.

December 31, 2024: NASA07\_NPR\_8715\_3E.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “7. [Requesting Relief from Agency Mission Assurance Requirements](#), NPR 8715.3E”.

December 31, 2024: NASA06\_STD-8719\_14C.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “6. [Process for Limiting Orbital Debris](#), NASA STD 8719.14C”.

December 31, 2024: NASA05\_NPR\_8715\_6E.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “5. [Orbital Debris Mitigation](#), NPR 8715.6E”.

December 31, 2024: “NASA04\_NASA\_SystemsEngineeringHandbook.pdf” posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “4. [NASA Systems Engineering Handbook](#), NASA/SP-2016-6105 Rev 2”.

December 31, 2024: NASA03\_NASA\_WBS\_Handbook.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “3. [NASA WBS Handbook](#), NASA/SP-20210023927”.

December 31, 2024: NASA02\_NPR\_7123\_1D.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “2. [NASA Systems Engineering Processes and Requirements](#), NPR 7123.1D,”.

December 31, 2024: NASA01\_NPR\_7120\_5F.pdf posted as NASA and Federal Documents item “1. [NASA Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements](#), NPR 7120.5F”.

December 31, 2024: Items posted as Program Specific Documents item “20. Class D Documents”.

December 31, 2024: Prog20a\_SPD-48.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 22“a. [Science Mission Directorate \(SMD\) Category 3/Class D Projects Implementation Policy](#), SPD-48”.

December 31, 2024: Prog20b\_Cat3\_Class3\_under150M.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 20“b. [Guidance and Expectations for Small Category 3, Risk Classification D \(Cat 3/Class D\) Space Flight Projects with Life-Cycle Cost Under \\$150M](#)”.

December 31, 2024:  
Prog20c\_GuidanceForDSSArchitecturesForClassDMissions20220803-2.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 20“c. [Guidance for Distributed Satellite System \(DSS\) Architectures for Class D Missions](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog20d\_Approved\_SMD\_EVMS\_Deviation.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 20“d. [Approved Deviation from FAR and NFS EVMS Policy for SMD Class D](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog20e\_TROPICSSignedProjectPlan-July20173APPROVEDFORPUBLICRELEASE-noSigs.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 20“e. [TROPICS Project Plan](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog19\_NPR\_8000\_4C.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “19. [NASA Risk Management Procedural Requirements](#), NPR 8000.4C”.

December 31, 2024: Prog18\_SPD-26B.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “18. [Policy and Requirements for SMD Communications for Flight Missions](#), SPD-26B”.

December 31, 2024: Prog17\_SPD-29.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “17. [Policy and Requirements for SMD External Web sites](#), SPD-29”.

December 31, 2024: Prog16\_MRPP\_ProjectProtectionPlanTemplate\_12-16-2020 posted for Program Specific Documents item “16. [Project Protection Plan \(PPP\) Template](#), 1216-2020”.

December 31, 2024: Prog15\_CUI\_Portion\_Marking\_Sample.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “15. [CUI Portion Marking Sample](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog14\_2024\_nasa\_new\_start\_inflation\_index\_for\_fy25\_final.xlsx posted as Program Specific Documents item “14. [NASA New Start Inflation Index](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog13\_Budget-Summary-Form\_Exhibit\_A.docx posted as Program Specific Documents item “13. [Astrophysics Explorers Budget Summary, Exhibit A](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog12a\_ModelContractDraftPhasesB-F\_ForProfit.pdf and Prog12b\_ModelContractDraftPhasesB-F\_NonProfit.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents items “12. [Draft Model Contract for Phases B/C/D/E](#)

- a. [Model Contract Draft Phases B-F, For Profit](#)
- b. [Model Contract Draft Phases B-F, Non Profit](#)” respectively.

December 31, 2024: Prog11\_SPD-19\_PI-ledmissions\_70JCL.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “11. [Meeting the 70% JCL Requirement in PI-led Missions, SPD-19](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog10\_APSMEX25\_AO\_Tables\_28Aug2024.xlsx posted as Program Specific Documents item “10. [Microsoft Excel version of the template tables in the AO](#)”:

- Table B1: Example Science Traceability Matrix
- Table B2: Example Mission Traceability Matrix
- Table B3a: Total Mission Cost RY\$ Profile Template [Step 2 only]
- Table B3b: Total Mission Cost FY\$ Profile Template
- Table B5: Master Equipment List”.

December 31, 2024: Prog09\_APD\_Data\_Policy\_v1-8.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “9. [Astrophysics Scientific Information Management Policy](#), APD-13 v1.8”.

December 31, 2024: Prog08\_SPD-41A.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “8. [Scientific Information Policy for the Science Mission Directorate](#), SPD-41a”.

December 31, 2024: Items posted as Program Specific Documents item “7. TRL 6 Documents”.

December 31, 2024: Prog7a\_SystemLevelTRL6- Examples\_12302024.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 7“a. [System Level TRL 6 Examples](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog07b\_Common-causes-TRL-Weaknesses-Ver03-080118.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 7“b. [Assessment of TRL in AO-Based Evaluations and Common Causes of Major TRL Weaknesses](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog06\_SPD-31\_StudentCollaboration.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “6. [SMD Policy Document on Student Collaboration](#), SPD-31”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05\_SCaN-MOCS-0001-Rev\_4\_Final.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents items “5. [Space Communications and Navigation \(SCaN\) Mission Operations and Communications Services \(MOCS\)](#), Rev 4, effective 08/13/2021”

December 31, 2024: Prog05a\_S-BandOverview\_2-8GHz.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5“a. [S-Band Overview 2-8GHz](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05b\_Spectrum-Data-Space-Communication-Bands.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5“b. [Available Spectrum and Channel Limits By Allocated Service](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05c\_NSN\_UsersGuide.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5“c. [Near Space Network User's Guide](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05d\_LEGS\_Brochure\_r25-1.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5“d. [Lunar Exploration Ground Sites \(LEGS\) Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05e\_NSN\_Services\_Brochure.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5“e. [Near Space Network \(NSN\) Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Items posted as Program Specific Documents item 5“f. Communications Services Project (CSP) Brochures”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05fi\_csp-telesat.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item 5f“i. [Telesat Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05fii\_kuiper-brochure.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item 5f“ii. [Project Kuiper Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05fiii\_kepler-csp-brochure.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item 5f“iii. [Kepler Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05fiv\_spacex-csp.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item 5f“iv. [SpaceX Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05fv\_ses-csp.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item 5f“v. [SES Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog05fvi\_viasat-csp.pdf posted as posted as Program Specific Documents item 5f“vi. [Viasat Brochure](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog04\_APSMEX25\_L SIS.pdf posted for Program Specific Documents item “4. [NASA Launch Services Information Summary \(LSIS\)](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog04a\_NPD\_8610\_7D.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 4“a. [NASA Launch Services Risk Mitigation Policy](#), NPD8610.7D (Revalidated w/Change 3)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog04b\_NPD\_8610\_023C.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 4“b. [Launch Vehicle Technical Oversight Policy](#), NPD-8610.23C (Revalidated 6/9/2023)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog04c\_NPD\_8610\_024C.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 4“c. [Launch Services Program Pre-Launch Readiness Reviews](#), NPD-8610.24C (Revalidated 12/17/2020)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog03\_APSMEX25\_DRAFT\_CandR-20241220.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “3. [Criteria and Requirements for the Phase A Concept Study](#) – DRAFT”.

December 31, 2024: Prog02\_SPD-39.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “2. [Science Mission Directorate Policy: SMD Standard Mission Assurance Requirements for Payload Classification D](#), SPD-39”.

December 31, 2024: Prog01\_ExplorersProgramPlan-RevC.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item “1. [Explorers Program Plan](#), EXP-PLAN-001, Revision C”.

December 31, 2024: Strat04\_astrophysics-roadmap-2013.pdf posted as Strategic Documents item “4. [Astrophysics roadmap, Enduring Quests Daring Visions, NASA Astrophysics in the Next Three Decades](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Link to 2020 Astrophysics Decadal Survey posted as Strategic Documents item “3. Astrophysics Decadal 2020: *Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s* (2021), may be accessed at <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26141/pathways-to-discovery-in-astronomyand-astrophysics-for-the-2020s>.”

December 31, 2024: Strat02\_2020-2024-nasa-science-plan-yr-23-update-final-2.pdf posted as Strategic Documents item “2. [Science 2020-2024: A Vision of Scientific Excellence](#) – 2023 Update”.

December 31, 2024: Strat01\_FY22\_StrategicPlan.pdf posted as Strategic Documents item  
“1. [2022 NASA Strategic Plan](#), NPD 1001.0D”.