

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”.

Note: If a document is posted out of sequence or is revised, it will be indicated via highlighting in this log.

April 24, 2026: Prog05a_SOMA Spectrum Guidance Document for AO Proposers.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 5a “[*SOMA Spectrum Guidance Document for AO Proposers*](#)”.

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”.

March 4, 2025: Prog22_SPD-47_Initiating_Contributions_to_International_Partner-led_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*](#)”.

February 26, 2025: NASA22_NPR_8715_26.pdf posted for NASA and Federal Documents item “22. [*Nuclear Flight Safety*](#), NPR 8715.26”.

February 20, 2025: Prog04_APSMEX25_L SIS-20250219.pdf posted for Program Specific Documents item “4. [*NASA Launch Services Information Summary – \(LSIS\)*](#)”.

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_SPD-

37_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”.

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-astronomy-and-astrophysics-for-the-2020s>.”

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)”.

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](#), NASA-STD-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_5-20201216.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_GuidanceForDSSArchitecturesForClassDMissions-

20220803-2.pdf posted as Program Specific Documents item 20“c. [*Guidance for Distributed Satellite System \(DSS\) Architectures for Class D Missions*](#)”.

December 31, 2024: Prog20d_Aproved_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-July20173-APPROVEDFORPUBLICRELEASE-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*](#), 12-16-2020”.

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
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Table B3a: Total Mission Cost RY\$ Profile Template [Step 2 only]
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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](#), NPD-8610.7D (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-astronomy-and-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”.