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".

November 20, 2026: Removed the interim working copy of the NASA FAR Supplement Companion Guide dated April 6, 2026 as this companion guide is still under review as part of Executive Order 14275.

November 19, 2026: Removed several documents and links that are pending updates to comply with current executive orders, including:

- *NASA Strategic Plan*
- *Astrophysics Decadal 2020: Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s* (2021)
- *Astrophysics roadmap, Enduring Quests Daring Visions, NASA Astrophysics in the Next Three Decades*

July 21, 2026: Updated brochures under SCaN's Communications Services Project (CSP) information. See item 5.f under Program Specific Documents in the Program Library. Changes include:

- Updated points of contact for information on Telesat, Kepler, SpaceX, SES, and Viasat.
- Project Kuiper (Amazon) was changed to the new name Amazon Leo.
- Added the Astranis brochure for a new option.
- The prior Inmarsat brochure is removed due to its merger with Viasat.

July 17, 2026: Replaced Item 10 under Program Specific Files entitled "*Microsoft Excel version of the template tables in the AO.*" The new template file provides an updated Master Equipment List template (sheet: *B5 – MEL-expanded*) that includes additional optional descriptive columns for information on the maturity of the subsystem or component.

July 1, 2026: Added Item 25 under Program Specific Documents entitled *Orbital Collision Avoidance Plan (OCAP) Process Tools*. The addition includes 25.a: *OCAP Screening Form and Instructions*, and item 25.b *CARA OCAP Input Form*. These were forms described in the CARA overview during the pre-proposal conference held on June 30, 2026.

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

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*

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*

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 Guida*nce
- 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*.

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*".

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_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*".

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_LSIS-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_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".

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."

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*, 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
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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_LSIS.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".