

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”.

June 5, 2026: General updates to referenced 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 *Criteria and Requirements for the Phase A Concept Study, DRAFT*”, which is no longer applicable.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”.

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_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_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
- 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”.