Explorer 2011
Concept Study Guidelines
Science

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Schedule

- The 11-month Phase A clock will start on Tuesday, 18 October 2011.
- Concept Study Reports (CSRs) will be due on Friday, 21 September 2012.
- Jeff Newmark and Wilt Sanders will be the Overall Chairs of the evaluation team.
- Washito Sasamoto (SOMA) will lead the TMC evaluation & coordinate site visits.
Concept Study Guidelines

- Concept Study Guidelines may be found at the Explorer Program Acquisition Website
  - [http://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/EX/ex_Library.html](http://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/EX/ex_Library.html)
- Guidelines are based on the “Standard CSR Guidelines” so changes are expected to be minimal
What Follows Selection?

- Selection by SMD AA @ HQ
- Concept Study Kickoff
- Receipt of Concept Study Reports
- Compliance Check of Concept Study Reports
- Science Check of Concept Study Reports
- TMC Individual Reviews & Telecons
- Science Subgroup Updates Form A & Form B
- E/PO, SC, and SDB Panel
- Initial Plenary
- Site Visits
- Final Plenary
- PIs Brief NASA HQ
- Downselection
- Downselection Announced by SMD AA @ HQ
- Debriefings & Contracts
Major Evaluation Criteria

• All three criteria from the AO or PEA will be used:
  – Scientific Merit
  – Science Implementation Merit
  – Feasibility including Cost Risk

• Weighting between criteria will be different as will individual factors.
Scientific Merit Evaluation Criterion

- Step 1 selections were primarily based on *science balanced by feasibility*. Unless the science has changed, the Phase A evaluation will emphasize *implementation*.
  - Unless directed or CSR results demand it, objectives of BSM/TSM should not change.
  - Science section from Step 1 proposal **must** be repeated in the CSR.
  - Any and all changes must be highlighted (change bars)
Science Implementation Evaluation Criterion

- All of the factors defined in Section 7.2.3 of the AO or Section 7.2.2 of the PEA apply to the CSR and will be re-evaluated from the data supplied in the CSR and at the site visit.
  - Site visit is viewed as an update to the CSR
  - Factor additions:
    - Details added to subfactor of Factor B-1
    - Added instrument design subfactor to Factor B-2
    - New Factor B-7: Likelihood of scientific success
      - Renumbered Factor A-3
    - New Factor B-8: Maturity of proposed Level 1 science requirements
      - E.g., Are they quantitative and verifiable?
Feasibility Evaluation Criterion

- See next presentation…
Additional Criteria

- Quality of Plans for Core E/PO Program
- Overall Merit of Student Collaboration (SC), if proposed
- Small Business Subcontracting Plans
Criteria Weighting

- Scientific merit of the investigation: approximately 25%
- Scientific implementation merit and feasibility of the investigation: approximately 20%
- Feasibility of mission implementation, including cost risk: approximately 50%
- Quality of plans for core E/PO, SDB sub-contracting, and for an optional SC, if proposed: approximately 5%
Competition Conditions

- “Blackout” after the Kickoff Meeting. Communications between Study Teams and the various NASA program offices will be focused to ensure fairness
  - Communications after this meeting will be controlled.
  - Technical and expert advice should be obtained directly from identified Points of Contact (POC’s).
  - All programmatic questions, including questions of policy, questions of interpretation, and questions of clarification, should come to HQ/Jeff Newmark
  - But, NASA does not want to restrict these communications
  - If process outlined by Program Office proves onerous, we will reassess it

- Generic versions of questions and answers will be posted as “Questions and Answers” available from the Explorer Program Acquisition website.