HELIOPHYSICS EXPLORERS PROGRAM
2019 MEDIUM-CLASS EXPLORER (MIDEX)

PHASE A CONCEPT STUDY
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Please submit your Questions to Dr. Moses, Mr. Florance, and Dr. Wu by email at:

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We will work to develop Answers your Questions, and post those Answers to this document. Please check back for the latest version, as you may not be notified that your Question has been answered.

Q&As 1, 2, and 3 posted 30 November 2020.

**Q1:** Will NASA consider shifting the AO LRD (NLT February 2026) to ensure that all missions have sufficient time to make a baseline launch date after absorbing delays from COVID-19 and other factors?

**A1:** To accommodate delays from COVID-19 and other factors, the AO LRD is extended to NLT October 2026, and the second LRD is extended to NLT December 2028.

**Q2:** Does the new evaluation Factor C-7, Ground systems, include science ground-based observatories or only operations?

**A2:** The new evaluation Factor C-7, Ground systems, is created for TMC evaluation of the CSR as defined in the MIDEX Guidelines and Criteria for the Phase A Concept Study document. A science ground-based observatory should be treated as a science instrument, and described appropriately in Section E, Science Implementation, of the CSR.

**Q3:** For the later Launch Readiness Date (LRD), should the 2 year interim period be considered an extended Phase A or an extended Phase B? Is the cost cap for the later LRD higher than the $250M FY2019 provided in the AO?
A3: Requirement CS-112 of the MIDEX *Guidelines and Criteria for the Phase A Concept Study* document states that the 2 year delay in the LRD is assumed to be “an extended Phase B.” Additional cost impacts due to the later LRD are outside the AO cost cap, but must be justified in the CSR.