Welcome and Congratulations!

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Concept Study Guidelines

• Heliophysics Explorer 2016 Draft Guidelines And Criteria For The Phase A Concept Study may be found at the Explorer Program Acquisition Website
  – These Draft Guidelines are based on the “Standard CSR Guidelines,” so changes for the final version 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

SC and SDB Panel

Science Subgroup Updates Form A & Form B

TMC Individual Reviews & Telecons

Downselection Announced by SMD AA @ HQ → Debriefings & Contracts

Initial Plenary → Site Visits → Final Plenary → PIs Brief NASA HQ → Downselection

Heliophysics Explorers Program Concept Study Kickoff Meeting
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 Baseline Science or Threshold Science Missions 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 SMEX AO or the SALMON-2 AO apply to the Concept Study 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 Emphasis
    • Well identified science team responsibilities
  – Factor additions:
    • Alternative launch service details
Feasibility Evaluation Criterion

- See next TMC presentation…
Additional Criteria

- 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 a Small Disadvantaged Business subcontracting, and for an optional Student Collaboration, 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 (POCs).
  – All programmatic questions, including questions of policy, questions of interpretation, and questions of clarification, should come to HQ/Dan Moses
  – But, NASA does not want to restrict these communications

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