



Solar Probe Plus (SPP) Investigations AO Pre-Proposal Conference

Solar Probe Plus AO Evaluation and Selection Process

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Solar Probe Plus (SPP) AO

- Proposals shall be for either an:
 - SPP instrument science investigation or an
 - SPP Observatory Scientist investigation
- Proposals cannot address both an instrument science investigation and the Observatory Scientist investigation in a single proposal. [Requirement 1]
- Is open to all proposers and proposer-teams
 - NASA has established firewalls to isolate program personnel, the spacecraft provider, and AO developers from proposal teams.
- Is a one step selection process.
- There is no cost cap per instrument in this AO; however, the budget resources for all selections are limited to approximately \$175M RY.



Requirements

- It is NASA's intent that all proposal requirements are clearly identified (and numbered) in the AO.
- The AO contains 86 numbered requirements
 - These provide the requirements for what constraints your proposed investigation must meet, what must be in your proposal, how your proposal must be submitted.
- Appendix B of the AO contains 61 numbered requirements
 - These provide direction on the required structure and content of your proposal.
- It is not our intent to repeat all 147 requirements here. It is our intent to answer all of your questions about the requirements.

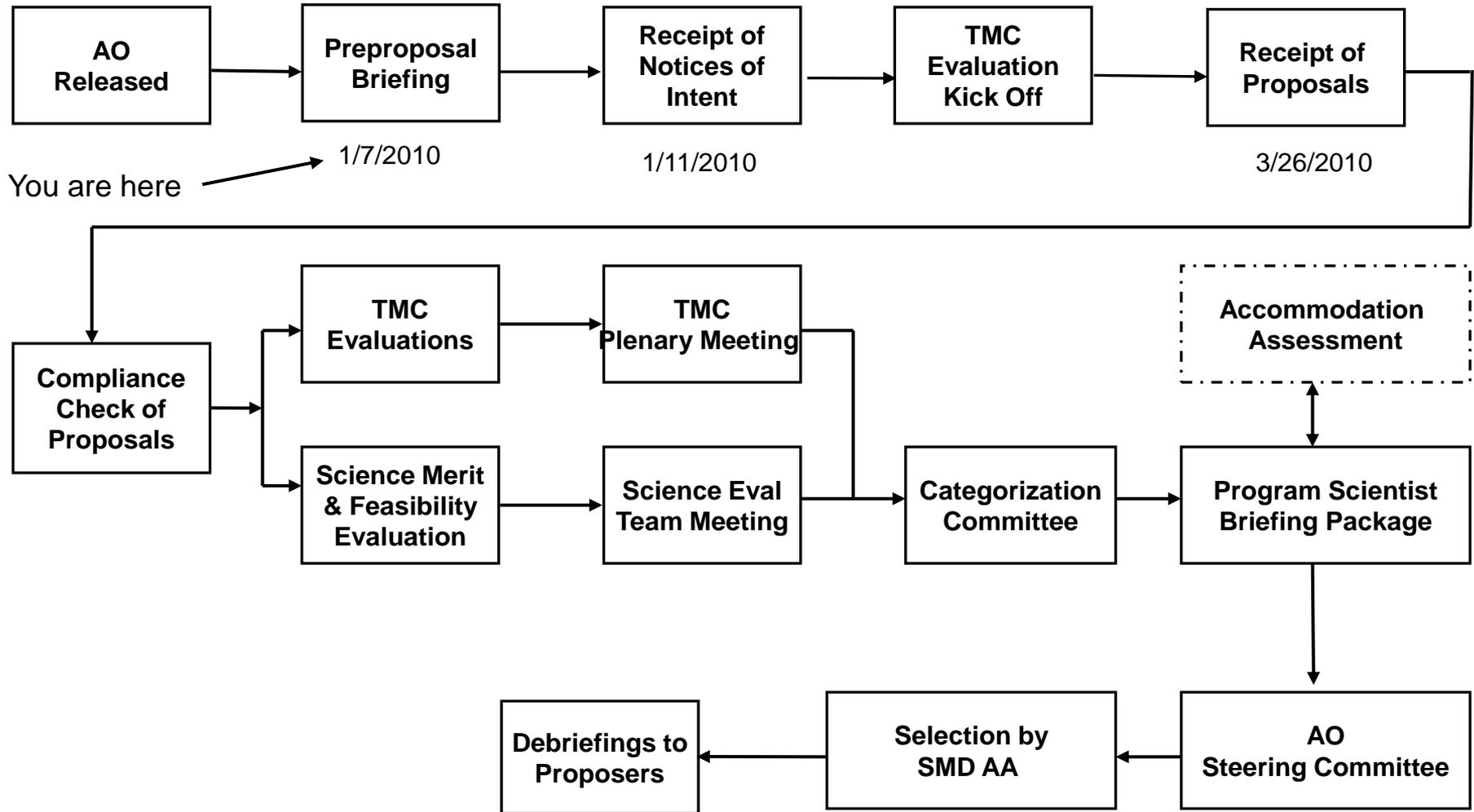


Requirements (Continued)

- All requirements are requirements, they are checked in two different ways.
- Proposals screened against the compliance checklist in Appendix F upon receipt.
 - Proposals that do not comply may be declared noncompliant and returned to the proposer without further review.
 - Administrative: On time, signed, page limits, NSPIRES, etc
 - Scientific: Instrument or Observatory Scientist proposal, goals and objectives of SPP mission, etc.
 - Technical: Includes required tables and letters, contains technical content, etc.
- Additional compliance checks occur during the evaluation process.
 - Proposals that do not comply may be declared noncompliant and returned to the proposer without further review.
 - Proposal that do not comply may receive a weakness during the evaluation.



Solar Probe Plus Investigations Proposal Evaluation & Selection Process





Evaluation Criteria Instrument Investigations

- For proposal of instrument(s) investigations, the evaluation criteria are:
 - The scientific merit of the proposed investigation (Section 7.2.2)
 - The scientific implementation merit and feasibility of the proposed investigation (Section 7.2.3); and
 - The technical, management, and cost (TMC) feasibility of the proposed approach for instrument investigation implementation, including cost risk (Section 7.2.4).
- In the case of investigations that propose to provide suites of instruments, the scientific merit; the scientific implementation merit and feasibility; and the technical, management, and cost (TMC) feasibility of each instrument will be evaluated in addition to the overall suite. (Section 7.1.1)
- Note: Proposals shall not designate an E/PO lead and proposals shall not include a plan for a core E/PO program. (Requirement 57)



Categorization – Section 7.1.2

- Category I. Well conceived and scientifically and technically sound investigations pertinent to the goals of the program and the AO's objectives and offered by a competent investigator from an institution capable of supplying the necessary support to ensure that any essential flight hardware or other support can be delivered on time and data that can be properly reduced, analyzed, interpreted, and published in a reasonable time. Investigations in Category I are recommended for acceptance and normally will be displaced only by other Category I investigations.
- Category II. Well-conceived and scientifically or technically sound investigations which are recommended for acceptance, but at a lower priority than Category I.
- Category III. Scientifically or technically sound investigations which require further development. Category III investigations may be funded for development and may be reconsidered at a later time for the same or other opportunities.
- Category IV. Proposed investigations which are recommended for rejection for the particular opportunity under consideration, whatever the reason.



Categorization Instrument Investigations

- For categorization of instrument science investigation proposals, the criteria are weighted approximately as follows:
 - scientific merit ~ 40%
 - scientific implementation merit and feasibility ~ 30%
 - TMC feasibility, including cost risk ~ 30%

Section 7.2.1



Evaluation Criteria Observatory Scientist

- For proposal for the Observatory Scientist, the evaluation criteria are:
 - The scientific merit of the proposed investigation (Section 7.2.2)
 - The scientific implementation merit and feasibility of the proposed plans for providing independent input to the SWG (Section 7.2.5); and
 - The suitability of the proposer for the Observatory Scientist position (Section 7.2.6).
- Note: Proposals shall not designate an E/PO lead and proposals shall not include a plan for a core E/PO program. (Requirement 57)



Categorization Observatory Scientist

- For categorization of an Observatory Scientist proposal, the criteria are weighted approximately as follows:
 - The scientific merit ~ 40%
 - The scientific implementation merit and feasibility of the proposed plans for providing independent input to the SWG ~ 30%
 - The suitability of the proposer for the Observatory Scientist position ~ 30%.

Section 7.2.1



Accommodation Assessment – Section 7.1.2

- After categorization, the Program Scientist may request a payload accommodation assessment of the highly ranked proposals to aid in developing a recommendation for selection of an integrated science payload that addresses the AO objectives (Section 2).
- The accommodation study will be led by the LWS Program Office and may involve the participation of the mission prime contractor (Section 7.4).
- The accommodation assessment may include Category I, II, and III investigations.



Selection Process – Section 7.1.3

- Selection Official: Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate
- The SMD Associate Administrator may consult with senior members of SMD and the Agency concerning the selections.
- As part of the selection decision, a decision will be made as to whether or not any Category III proposals will receive funding for technology development.
- NASA reserves the right to select only a portion of a proposer's investigation and/or to invite his/her participation with other investigators in a joint investigation. In that case, all affected proposers will be given the opportunity to accept or decline such a partial acceptance and/or participation with other investigators.



Selection Factors – Section 7.3

- Proposal evaluations based on the criteria
- Categorizations
- Accommodation study
- Past performance (especially in meeting cost and schedule constraints)
- The Selection Official may take into account a wide range of programmatic factors
- The overriding consideration: maximize scientific return and minimize implementation risk while advancing NASA's science goals and objectives within the available budget for this program. Therefore,
 - the proposed PI-Managed Instrument Investigation Cost will be considered in the final selection of investigations through this AO.
 - for Observatory Scientist investigation proposals, life-cycle cost will be considered in the final selection.