

A.3.10 Near Earth Object Observations Program

1. Scope of Program

The Near Earth Object (NEO) Observations program supports ground-based telescopic observations to inventory the population of Near Earth Objects and to characterize a representative sample of them. However, the highest priority of this NEO program is to inventory the population of these objects. Therefore, NASA seeks investigations that promise a sustained, productive search for NEO's or that obtain follow-up observations sufficient astrometric precision to allow the accurate prediction of their orbits

This program also seeks to characterize NEO's to the maximum extent possible, by measuring the sizes, shapes, and compositions of any newly discovered objects. Although this objective is of lower priority than that of discovery and orbit determination, it is considered very important from the point of view of helping to determine possible objectives of future space flight missions that NASA or other non-U.S. space agencies may sponsor.

2. Programmatic Considerations

Presently about \$3.5M is budgeted for this program, of which approximately \$0.5M is dedicated to program office support at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Approximately 15 investigations are currently supported with the remaining funds. Owing to the expiration of some of the current awards, approximately \$600K will be open for competition through this ROSS-99 NRA. .

As a departure from past nomenclature for this program element, and in accordance with Section C.3 of Appendix C, all proposals for this NEO Observations program are now considered "new" regardless of past funding history, i.e., the old term of "Renewal (Full) Proposal" is no longer used. However, proposals for NEO observations that are a logical follow-on to work that has been selected and funded through previous Planetary Astronomy NRA's (where all previous NEO work would have been submitted) should provide their existing NASA award number on the requested *Cover Page*, and describe the work that has been accomplished both in the required *Program Summary*, as well as in the body of the *Science/Technical/Management* section (see Appendix C.5.3).

NOTE: Appendix C contains critical information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals submitted in response to this NRA. In particular, Section C.5.3 contains detailed standards concerning the format, page limits, and contents of a proposal. The submission of a proposal not in compliance with these standards may complicate and/or hinder its efficient and complete evaluation. Therefore, deficiencies in format and/or omission of key information may result in a proposal being found unacceptable for evaluation, or if evaluated, being adversely affected during the evaluation process.

The schedules for submission of the Notice of Intent and proposal are given in Table 1 of the cover letter of this NRA. The World Wide Web site for submitting both the NOI and the *Cover Page/Proposal Summary* (see Appendix C.5.3) is <<http://cass.jsc.nasa.gov/panel/>>; proposers without access to the Web or who experience difficulty in using this site may contact The Lunar and Planetary Institute by E-mail at <panel@lpi.jsc.nasa.gov> or by phone at (281) 486-2137 for assistance. Hard copies of the proposals are to be delivered to:

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Near Earth Object (NEO) Observations program
The Lunar and Planetary Institute
3600 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, TX 77058
Phone number for commercial delivery: (281) 486-2189.

Additional information may be obtained from the Discipline Scientist:

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