

A.3.2 Planetary Astronomy Program

1. Scope of Program

The Planetary Astronomy Program supports ground-based telescopic observations that contribute to the understanding of the general properties and evolution of the planets and their satellites, and of asteroids and comets. Note that in a change from the ROSS-98 NRA, the observations of Near Earth Objects (NEO's) are now to be supported through a separate program element; see Section A.3.10. The Planetary Astronomy Program as now redefined includes observations made over a wide range of wavelengths from ultraviolet to radio and their analysis. The data obtained must be useful for basic research in support of planetary program objectives that either cannot be met by current spacecraft missions or directly support specific flight missions. Proposals are sought for new projects that fall within the scope of the Planetary Astronomy Program. Ground-based observations that supplement NASA missions that will be returning significant amounts of data within the next three years are especially encouraged.

2. Programmatic Considerations

Presently about \$8.2M is budgeted for this program, of which \$3.5M is dedicated to facilities support (principally the Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF)). Approximately 90 investigations are supported with the remaining funds. Approximately one-third of these awards are expiring, allowing proposers to this ROSS-99 NRA to compete for about \$2M.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) also accepts proposals (from domestic organizations only) that contribute new knowledge in planetary astronomy. The same planetary astronomy proposal may be submitted to both NASA, in response to this NRA, as well as to NSF. In such a case, the proposal must clearly state that it is being submitted to both agencies. The Planetary Astronomy Programs at NASA and NSF coordinate their reviews.

As a departure from past nomenclature for this program element, and in accordance with Section C.3 of Appendix C, all proposals for this Planetary Astronomy 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 that are a logical follow-on to work that has been selected and funded through previous Planetary Astronomy NRA's 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:

ROSS-99 NASA Research Announcement
Planetary Astronomy 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:

Dr. Thomas Morgan
Planetary Astronomy Program
Research Program Management Division
Code SR
NASA Headquarters
Office of Space Science
Washington, DC 20546-0001
Telephone: (202) 358-0828
E-mail: thomas.morgan@hq.nasa.gov