

A.2.8 NEAR EARTH OBJECT OBSERVATIONS

1. Scope of Program

The Near Earth Object (NEO) Observations program supports ground-based telescopic observations to, primarily, inventory the population of Near Earth Objects and, secondarily, to characterize a representative sample of them. Therefore, NASA seeks proposals that promise a sustained, productive search for NEO's and/or that obtain follow-up observations of sufficient astrometric precision to allow the accurate prediction of the orbits of discovered objects. This program also seeks to characterize NEO's to the maximum extent possible by measuring the sizes, shapes, and compositions of newly discovered objects. Although this objective is of lower priority than that of discovery and orbit determination, it is deemed important from the standpoint of identifying potential targets of future space flight missions that NASA or other U.S. space agencies may sponsor.

2. Programmatic Considerations

Presently, about \$3.6M is budgeted for this program, of which approximately \$0.5M is dedicated to program office support at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Approximately 14 investigations are currently supported with the remaining funds. Owing to the expiration of some of the current awards, approximately \$1.4M will be open for competition through this ROSS-2002 NRA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As discussed in the *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA, the Office of Space Science (OSS) is now using a single, unified set of instructions for the submission of proposals. This material is contained in the document entitled *NASA Guidebook for Proposers Responding to NASA Research Announcement – 2001* (or *NASA Guidebook for Proposers* for short) that is accessible by opening URL <http://research.hq.nasa.gov>, and linking through the menu item "Helpful References," or may be directly accessed online at URL <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/nraguidebook/>. This NRA's Summary of Solicitation also contains the schedule and instructions for the electronic submission of a *Notice of Intent* (NOI) to propose and a proposal's *Cover Page/Proposal Summary*, which now also includes the required *Budget Summary*, and the mailing address for the submission of a proposal.

Note that the Near Earth Object Observations program requires submission of 19 copies of the proposal plus the signed original instead of the default number of 15 copies given in the *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA.

Additional information may be obtained from the Discipline Scientist for this Program Element:

Dr. Thomas Morgan
Solar System Exploration Division
Code SE
Office of Space Science
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001
Telephone: (202) 358-0828
E-mail: thomas.morgan@hq.nasa.gov