



AO Simplification: The Quicklist

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Three Lists

- **Quicklist:** Changes that the AO Simplification Study Team believes will remove considerable burden from the proposing community with little to no reduction in proposal quality or significantly impact risk evaluation needs.
- **Potential AO Changes:** Changes that potentially could remove proposal submission burden from the community, but might well affect the quality of the proposals and/or significantly affect evaluation needs. These changes require additional study before implementing them.
- **Potential Process Changes:** Changes far beyond the charter of the AO Simplification Study Team that require significant study to understand their advantages vs impact.



Warning & Metric

These are the preliminary thoughts of the AO Simplification Study Team and have not been approved by NASA.

Assessment standards for suggestions

1. Will it reduce work for the proposer?
2. What is the downside risk?
3. Is it a good idea?



Quicklist

- 1. Consolidate and Number all Requirements.** Clearly distinguish (i) requirements that must be addressed in Step 1 proposals from (ii) requirements on selected missions that do not have to be addressed in Step 1 proposals
- 2. Clarify Evaluation Factors.** Include very specific definitions of each criterion and factor to clarify what is being evaluated.
- 3. Standardize the Format of all AO's.** Only a limited number of requirements can be modified from AO to AO.



Quicklist

- 4. Remove Missions of Opportunity (MOs):** Solicit only missions or instruments with each AO and solicit MOs via SALMON.
- 5. Treat Launch Services as GFE outside the AO cost cap:** Remove ELV and Launch Services from the AO cost cap and hold this funding separately at HQ.
- 6. Reduced requirements for the Letters of Commitment and Letters of Endorsement for co-investigators:** State the objectives for Letters in Step 1 proposal and meet them. Full Letters can be delayed until the Step 2 CSR.



Quicklist

7. Remove Education and Public Outreach (EPO) and Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB)

Requirements: No discussion of these areas would be required in Step 1 proposals, only a statement of commitment (one sentence) would be required.

8. Remove Orbital Debris Requirement: Only an acknowledgement of the requirement would be required in the Step 1 proposal.

9. Remove the Compliance Checklist Requirement: The Compliance Checklist would still be shown in the AO, but NASA would complete this checklist and not require it of the proposer.



Potential AO Changes

- **Remove Phase A Statements of Work (SOWs) Requirements.** Impact: Submission and evaluation of Phase A SOWs after selection will delay the award of Phase A contracts.
- **Accept Wider Error Bars for TMC Evaluation.** Impact: NASA must be willing to accept more risk that initial selections cannot be realized as proposed within the cost cap.
- **Over-Selection.** Impact: Lower downselection rate might make investment in Step 2 studies unattractive to mission partners.
- **Real Year (RY) Dollars.** Impact: Unintended impacts on mission proposals if a range of start dates or launch dates is contemplated in the AO.
- **Delete Funding Profile Requirement.** Impact: Funding would have to be negotiated if selected to fit within NASA's available funding profile.



Potential AO Changes

- **Remove Planetary Protection Requirement.** Impact: Mission architecture might be unimplementable.
- **Reduce Communications and Tracking Requirements.** Impact: Mission architecture might be unimplementable.
- **Standardize and Clarify Requirements for Foreign Contributions.** Impact: Partnership might not materialize.
- **Disallow Export Controlled Information in Step 1 Proposals.** Impact: It is not clear that a legitimate response can be made for full missions without including export controlled information.
- **Standardize the Expected Format of All Proposals.** Impact: Could impact the flexibility that the community now has to provide the required information in the manner they think best fits their proposal.



Potential AO Changes

- **Terminate Submission of Paper Proposals.** Impact: Lack of paper copies could be unpopular with reviewers.
- **Simplify/Clarify/Standardize the NSPIRES Interface.**
Note: Some changes beyond the control of the AO.



Process Changes

Topic deferred until Friday morning

- **Process Change from 2 Step:** Consider 1-Step (includes NASA/Proposer interface in Step 1) and 3-Step with a new Step Zero which would be to determine Science interest only.
- **Increase Lead Time for Proposing:** NASA to broadcast clearly their intentions to solicit as far in advance of the actual AO release as possible.
- **Extended Phase A:** A longer, better funded concept development period before entering the preliminary design phase (Phase B).