Future Solicitation Notice for a Heliophysics Mission of Opportunity under the Solar Terrestrial Probes Program

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) expects to release a Draft Solicitation in Spring 2017 for a Heliophysics Mission of Opportunity (MO) under the Solar Terrestrial Probes **(STP)** Program. The MO will be conducted as a Principal Investigator (PI)-led space investigation to advance NASA's strategic objective in heliophysics, which is to "Understand the Sun and its interactions with the Earth and the solar system, including space weather." The solicitation for the Heliophysics STP MO will be released through a NASA Program Element Appendix (PEA) for the Third Stand Alone Missions of Opportunity Notice (SALMON-3).

The PI managed mission cost cap for the Heliophysics STP MO is expected to be no greater than $55M in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 dollars. NASA expects to solicit MO science investigations that are defined in the SALMON-3 AO as Partner MOs or Small Complete Mission (SCM) MOs, including investigations requiring flight on the International Space Station. SCMs that are suborbital-class have a $35M PI-managed mission cost cap; this includes missions on high-altitude scientific balloons (Super Pressure Balloon (SPB), Long-Duration Balloons (LDB)) or on suborbital reusable launch vehicles (sRLVs). Other (not suborbital-class) MOs will have a $55M PI-managed mission cost cap, including SCMs that use Cubesats.

The Heliophysics STP MO will be selected in a two-step process. In Step 1, it is anticipated that at least two MO missions may be selected for Phase A concept studies. For Step 2, NASA will conduct a detailed review of the Phase A concept study reports. As a result of this second evaluation, NASA expects to select at least one MO mission to proceed into Phase B and subsequent mission phases.

Proposals in response to this PEA will be due 90 days after its formal release. Participation will be open to all categories of U.S. and non-U.S. organizations, including educational institutions, industry, not-for-profit organizations, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, NASA Centers, and other Government agencies.

The notional schedule for the Heliophysics MO solicitation is as follows:

Release of draft PEA	Spring 2017
Release of final PEA	Spring 2017
Preproposal workshop	~3 weeks after PEA release
Proposals due	90 days after PEA release
Selection of Phase A studies	Spring 2018
Concept study reports due	Early 2019
Phase B Down-selection	Summer 2019
Launch date	No earlier than Spring 2023

NASA has completed its regular assessment and revision of SALMON and will be issuing a SALMON-3 AO. The SALMON-3 AO and Heliophysics PEA may contain provisions that differ substantially from this preliminary notice, in which case the provisions in the SALMON-3 AO and the Heliophysics PEA will take precedence. Proposers should read the Draft Heliophysics SALMON-3 PEA carefully when it is released.

NASA has not approved issuance of the Heliophysics STP MO PEA and this notification does not obligate NASA to issue the PEA and solicit proposals. Any cost incurred by prospective investigators in preparing submissions in response to this notification or the planned Draft MO PEA are incurred completely at the submitter's own risk.

Further information will be posted on the Solar Terrestrial Probes Program Acquisition Page at https://SOMA.LARC.nasa.gov/STP/MO, as it becomes available. Questions or comments regarding the NASA Heliophysics STP MO may be addressed to Dr. Mona Kessel, STP Program Scientist, Email: mona.kessel@nasa.gov. Responses to all inquiries will be answered by E-mail and also posted at the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) location of the STP Program Acquisition website; anonymity of persons/institutions who submit questions will be preserved.