



Dear Colleague:

At the request of NASA and the NSF, and with the anticipated support of NOAA, the Space Studies Board (SSB) of the National Research Council has commenced a broadly-based assessment of the scientific priorities of the U.S. solar and space physics research enterprise for the period 2013-2022. Details regarding this “decadal survey” may be found via a link on the SSB website, www.nas.edu/ssb, or directly via the URL: <http://tinyurl.com/2b4e4sh>. The first face-to-face meeting of the Decadal Survey steering committee, panel chairs, and cross disciplinary working group leads occurred on 1-3 September 2010.

Achievement of the community’s objectives for this solar and space physics decadal strategy requires your involvement and active participation!

Receipt of community ideas to advance our field is a crucial element in the survey process. We strongly encourage you to write a concept paper (e.g., about a mission or extended mission(s), observation, theory, or modeling activity) that promises to advance an existing or new scientific objective, contribute to fundamental understanding of the Sun-Earth/planetary system, and/or facilitate the connection between science and societal needs (e.g., improvements in space weather prediction).

Concept papers can range from a specific instrument or mission proposal to a white paper that examines an issue of broad concern to the community. They may be directed for action by any of the study’s sponsors and will be of interest to all of the federal agencies responsible for the conduct of solar and space physics research and operations. We encourage concept papers that, for example, examine the potential of novel instruments or measurement techniques, including the use of orbital or suborbital vehicles of various sizes. In addition, we welcome concept papers on the use of existing or new ground-based facilities, as well as the potential of laboratory experiments. In all cases, *concept papers should include the identification of a science and/or societal objective and motivate the importance of achieving this objective in the context of the state of the field.*

Information to support a major mission concept will be reviewed initially by our discipline science panels, which plan to hold their first meetings in mid-late November. **For full consideration, submissions must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, November 12, 2010** (note this extends a previously announced deadline of October 15, 2010). Submissions prior to the deadline are strongly encouraged! Concept papers that take the form of a white paper are also requested to follow this schedule.

Instructions on how to submit a concept paper can be found on our website (see above) in the section “White Papers and Community Input.” Page limits and details of particular importance to respondents proposing a mission concept are provided in the PDF file that will open by clicking on “Read the Request for Information for the Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey.”

Your ideas will provide the foundation for an exciting and compelling program that the Steering Committee, Panel members and others involved in the Decadal process will endeavor to advocate as strongly as possible. *Concepts from the first decadal survey, roadmap studies, or other past community efforts will not automatically be included in the 2013-2022 strategy unless the idea is submitted and advocated through the new Survey.*

Please participate in the survey and remember that—at least for NASA—if **it is not in the survey plan, it will not be in the agency budget. We look forward to receiving your concept papers by November 12, 2010.**

--Daniel Baker and Thomas Zurbuchen on behalf of the Decadal Survey