

Notice of Intent to Release an Announcement of Opportunity for Discovery Program Missions and Missions of Opportunity

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of Space Science (OSS) intends to release an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) in April 2004 to solicit proposals for investigations through the Discovery Program.

The Discovery missions meet the goals of planetary system(s) exploration encompassing the scientific objectives of the NASA Solar System Exploration (SSE) theme (excluding Mars) and the search for extrasolar planetary systems element of the NASA Astronomical Search for Origins (ASO) theme. The Discovery Program selects missions through a fully open and competitive process. Investigation teams are to be led by a single Principal Investigator (PI), with participation open to all categories of organizations both foreign and domestic, including educational institutions, industry, nonprofit organizations, NASA Centers, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and other Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and other Government agencies. Principal Investigators (PIs) are responsible for and allowed to assemble the mission team from any and all of these organizations.

A Discovery Preproposal Conference will be scheduled approximately two weeks after the AO is released. Details for this conference and an expanded version of this Announcement of Intent will be posted at the Web site <http://discovery.larc.nasa.gov/discovery/>.

Questions or comments about this intention to release a Discovery AO may be addressed to the NASA Discovery Program Scientist: Dr. Susan M. Niebur, Discovery Program Scientist, Solar System Exploration Division, Code SE, Office of Space Science, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC 20546-0001; E-mail: susan.m.niebur@hq.nasa.gov; Telephone: (202) 358-3097; Facsimile: (202) 358-3097.