

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# EXPLORE SOLAR SYSTEM & BEYOND

## NASA Headquarters Update

ExoPAG #25 | January 12, 2022

**Hannah Jang-Condell** ([hannah.jang-condell@nasa.gov](mailto:hannah.jang-condell@nasa.gov))

Exoplanet Exploration Deputy Program Scientist, ExoPAG Executive Secretary  
Astrophysics Division, Science Mission Directorate





# An Overview of the ExoPAG







# Exoplanet Program Analysis Group (ExoPAG)

<https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/overview>

- The ExoPAG is led by a Chairperson appointed from the exoplanet community to serve a 3-year term.
- The ExoPAG Chair is supported by a 10-12-member Executive Committee (EC)
  - EC members are selected to reflect a cross-section of the exoplanet exploration stakeholder community;
  - EC members are solicited annually and appointed to rotating 3-year terms.
- Together, the ExoPAG Chair and EC comprise a steering group that is responsible for keeping the community informed of ongoing activities and opportunities within the ExoPAG, capturing and organizing community input, and overseeing ExoPAG analyses.
- All members of the community are encouraged to consider nominating themselves or a colleague to serve on the ExoPAG EC. Service on the EC provides an excellent opportunity to:
  - Initiate a Science Analysis/Interest Group.
  - Review and contribute to the ExEP Science and Technology Development Gap Lists.
  - Contribute to APD's efforts to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion at NASA and in the community.
  - Interact with excellent colleagues.
  - Inspire the next generation.
  - Have an impact within our community.



# The ExoPAG Executive Committee

Name	Home Institution
Michael Meyer (Chair)*	Univ. of Michigan
Natasha Batalha	NASA ARC
Jacob Bean	Univ. of Chicago
Michael Bottom	Univ. Hawaii
Knicole Colon	NASA GSFC
John Debes	STScI
Rebecca Jensen-Clem	Univ. of California, Santa Cruz
Tiffany Kataria*	JPL
Ilaria Pascucci	Univ. Arizona
Josh Pepper*	Lehigh Univ.
Dmitry Savransky*	Cornell Univ.
Laura Schaefer	Stanford Univ.

\*indicates EC member whose term is expiring in 2022

## Programmatic Support:

- Hannah Jang-Condell, NASA HQ Executive Secretary, NASA POC
- Doris Daou, NASA HQ – Planetary Science Division Liaison
- Richard Eckman, NASA HQ – Earth Science Division Liaison
- Galen Fowler, NASA HQ – Heliophysics Division Liaison
- Exoplanet Exploration Program Office, JPL - Logistics





# Join the ExoPAG EC!

NASA anticipates making new appointments to the ExoPAG EC, replacing current members of the committee who have reached the end of their appointments. New appointments will start in the Spring of 2022 and will be for a period of three years.

See the recruitment letter for more details:

[https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/internal\\_resources/2064/](https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/internal_resources/2064/)

The deadline for nominations is **January 21, 2022**

Questions? Contact Hannah Jang-Condell ([hannah.jang-condell@nasa.gov](mailto:hannah.jang-condell@nasa.gov))





# NASA HQ Update





# NASA Astrophysics Division

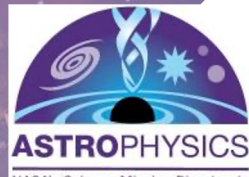
## Division Director



**Paul Hertz**  
Astrophysics Division  
Director



**Sandra Cauffman**  
Astrophysics Division  
Deputy Director



## Program Executives



**Rachele Cocks**  
Operating  
MissionPioneers



**E. Lucien Cox**  
SOFIA, GUSTO,  
XRISM, ExEP



**Ed Griego**  
Roman CGI, APD  
Operating Missions



**Shahid Habib**  
PCOS/COR, ARIEL,  
Athena, Euclid, LISA,  
UltraSat

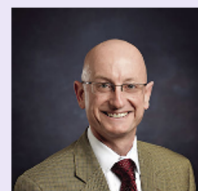


**Janet Letchworth**  
Roman



**Mark Sistilli**  
Explorers Program  
IXPE, SPHEREx,  
COSI  
Balloons

## Cross Cutting



**Eric Smith**  
Chief Scientist  
Webb



**Jeanne Davis**  
Assoc Dir for Flight  
ASM Program Manager



**Mario Perez**  
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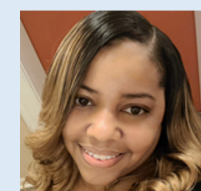
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**Lisa Wainio**  
Information Manager,  
Public Affairs Liaison

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**Maria Harriell**  
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**Lina Carrington**  
Program Support  
Specialist



**Ingrid Farrell**  
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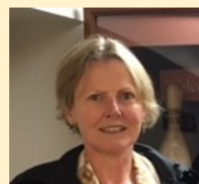
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APRA Lead



**Terri Brandt**  
COSI Dep  
APRA Dep  
Pioneers Dep



**Valerie Connaughton**  
APRA (High Energy)  
XRISM, UltraSat  
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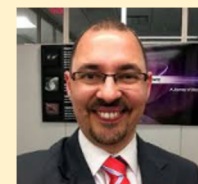
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Rockets/Balloons  
GUSTO, LISA



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Education/Comms,  
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Program Mgr, Chandra,  
ART-XC



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XRP, TESS  
DEIA Lead



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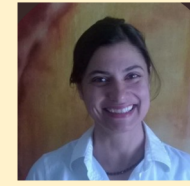
**Kartik Sheth**  
On detail to OSTP



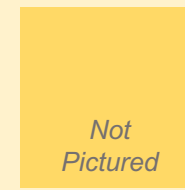
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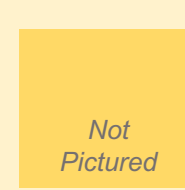
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Future



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# NASA Astrophysics Division

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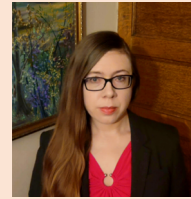


**Sandra Cauffman**  
Astrophysics Division  
Deputy Director



## New to APD

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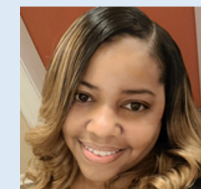
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Future

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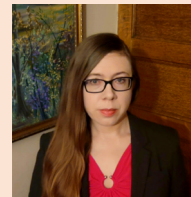
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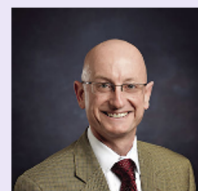


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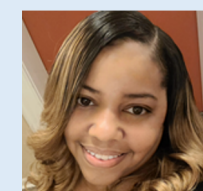
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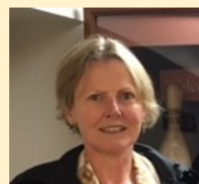
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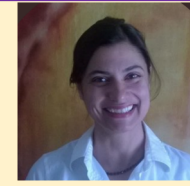
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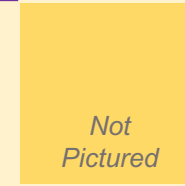
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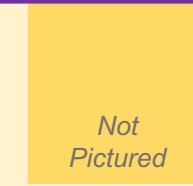


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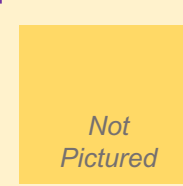
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Pictured

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Not  
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Not  
Pictured

Future



# Director of Astrophysics Transition

Paul Hertz will be stepping down this year after more than 10 years as Director of Astrophysics (the best job at NASA)

Once the new Director of Astrophysics is in place, Hertz will move to the SMD Front Office as Senior Advisor to the SMD Associate Administrator

Who will lead NASA astrophysics in the upcoming era of increasing inclusion and diversity, growing R&A, Webb science, Roman development, exoplanet characterization, time domain and multi-messenger astrophysics, dark energy and dark matter, first Astrophysics Probe, more Explorers / Pioneers / cubesats, future great observatories, and realizing Astro2020 priorities?

The search for the next NASA Director of Astrophysics has begun

For the job advertisement, see <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/628265700> or search for announcement number HQ-22-ES-11334214 on <https://USAJOBS.gov>

This is a Senior Executive Service (SES) position, which requires a resume and a substantial narrative job application addressing executive core qualifications and mandatory technical qualifications

The application period closes on March 21, 2022

Questions? Contact Dr. Daniel Evans ([daniel.a.evans@nasa.gov](mailto:daniel.a.evans@nasa.gov))



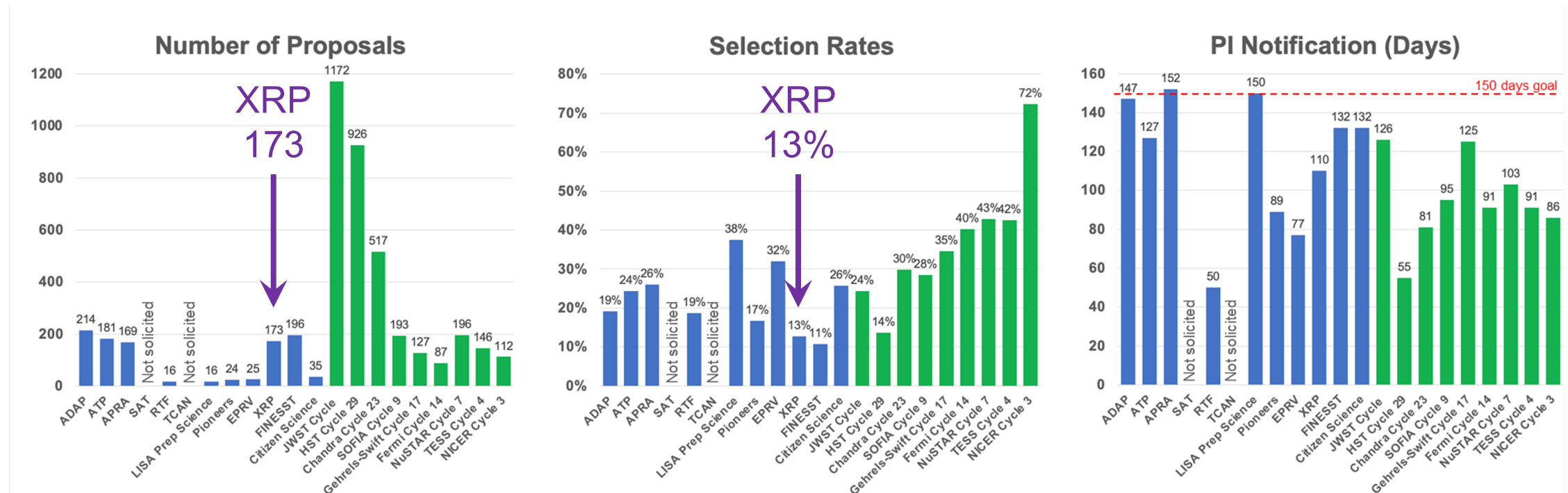


# Research Program Update



# Astrophysics R&A Proposal Status Update

December 2020-2021



R&A: 1,049 proposals  
GO/GI: 3,476 proposals  
Total: 4,525 proposals

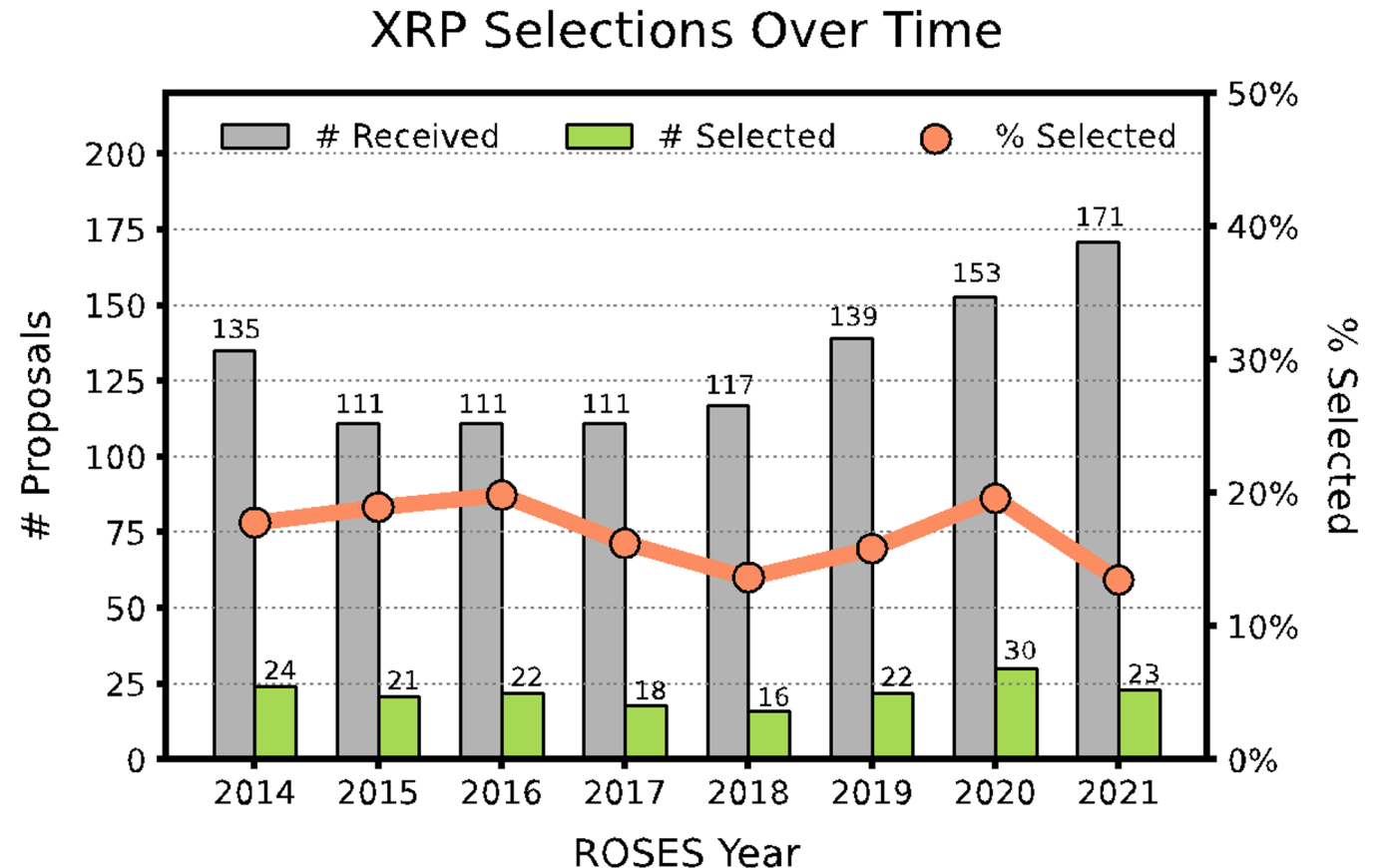
R&A: 19%  
GO/GI: 27%  
Average: 25%

80% of notifications  
R&A: 147 days  
GO/GI: 126 days



# Exoplanets Research Program (XRP) Updates

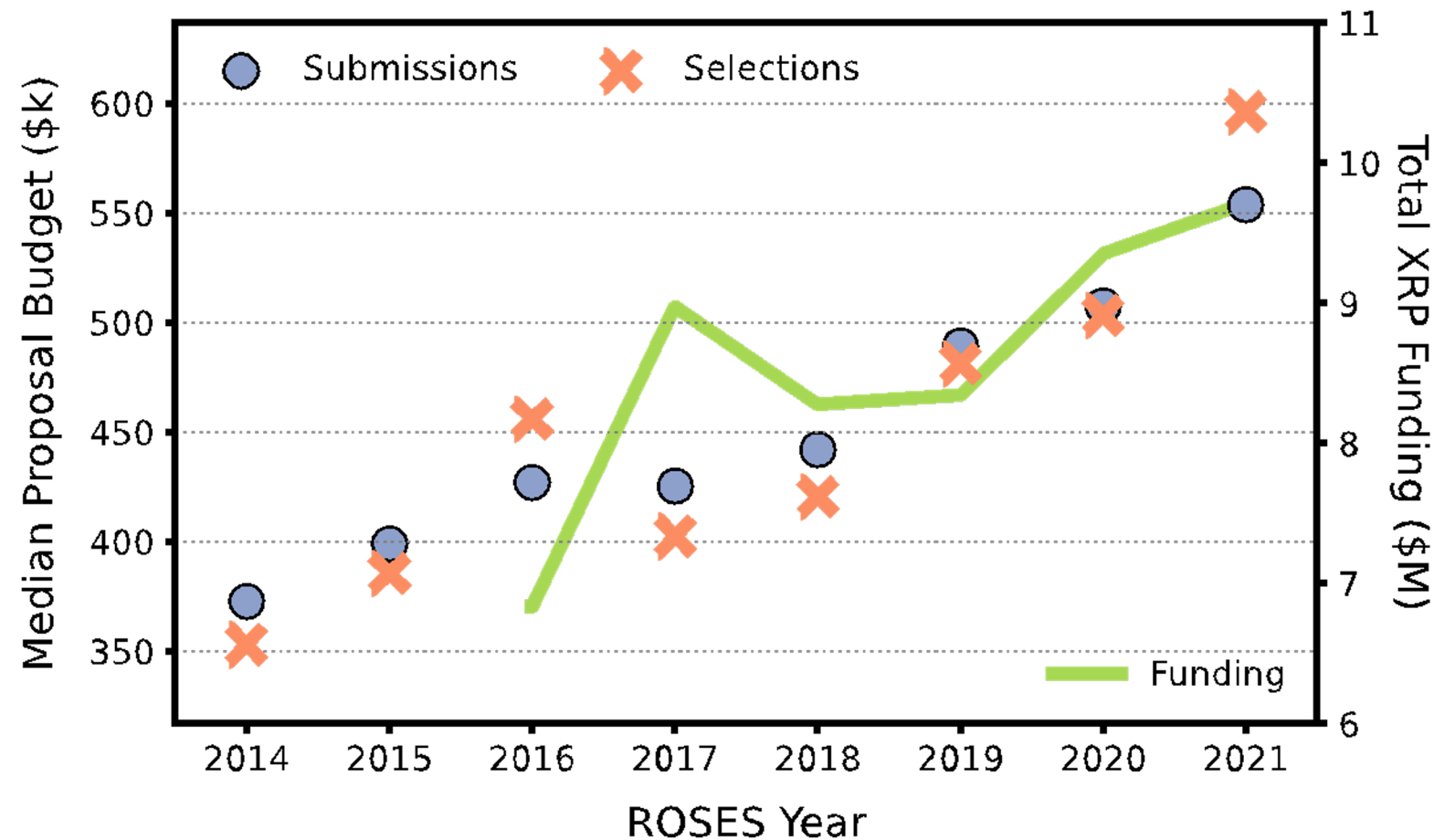
- Beginning with ROSES-2020, exoplanet research elements from ADAP, ATP, & APRA-Lab Astro have been moved into XRP. Exoplanet technology development remains in APRA
- Beginning with ROSES-2021, XRP proposals are reviewed with Dual-Anonymous Peer Review (DAPR)
- The number of proposals submitted to XRP continues to grow despite COVID-19
- We were able to select more proposals in 2020, but not as many in 2021
- Growth of average proposal budget is outpacing portfolio budget growth



# Exoplanets Research Program Budgets

Budgets of XRP proposals are growing faster than total XRP funding

XRP Budgets & Funding Over Time







# Mission Program Update







# ASTROPHYSICS FLEET

## PRE-FORMULATION

MIDEX/MO 2028  
PROBE ~2030  
ATHENA EARLY 2030s  
LISA MID 2030s

## VERY SMALL MISSIONS

## TRADITIONAL MISSIONS

### KEY

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER LED  
ISS INSTRUMENT  
SMALLSAT  
CUBESAT  
BALLOON

FORMULATION  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OPERATING  
EXTENDED

2020

SXG

IXPE

WEBB

CUTE

BURST-CUBE

GUSTO

EUCLID

1990

HUBBLE

GLOWBUG

SPRITE

XRISM

SPHEREX

ULTRASAT

COSI

ROMAN

2025

2015

NICER

SOFIA

NUSTAR

2010

FERMI

2005

GEHRELS SWIFT

2000

CHANDRA

XMM-NEWTON

ASPERA PUEO

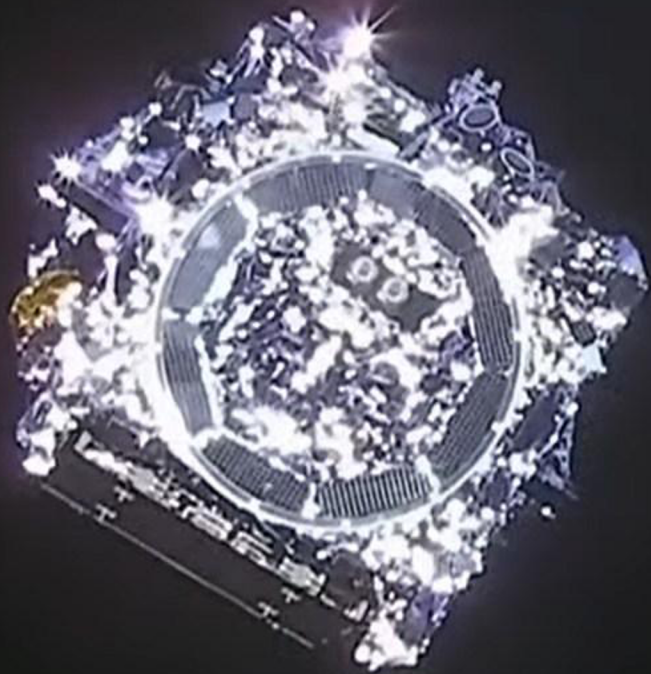
BLACKCAT

PANDORA

SPARCS-2

STARBURST





# James Webb Space Telescope

Knicole Colon's talk from Monday!



<https://jwst.nasa.gov/>

# James Webb Space Telescope



Knicole Colon's talk from Monday!



# TESS Update

George Ricker & Michelle Kunimoto's talk to follow!

The image features a composite background. The top left corner shows a stylized, colorful nebula with purple, blue, and orange hues. The bottom left corner shows a stylized, colorful nebula with purple, blue, and orange hues. The central part of the image is a dark, rectangular area divided into a grid of 12 panels (2 rows by 6 columns). The leftmost panel shows a 3D rendering of the TESS satellite, which is a white, cylindrical spacecraft with two large, rectangular solar panel arrays extending from its sides. The remaining 11 panels show various astronomical images, including star fields, nebulae, and galaxies. The text 'TESS' is overlaid on the first panel of the grid.

## TESS

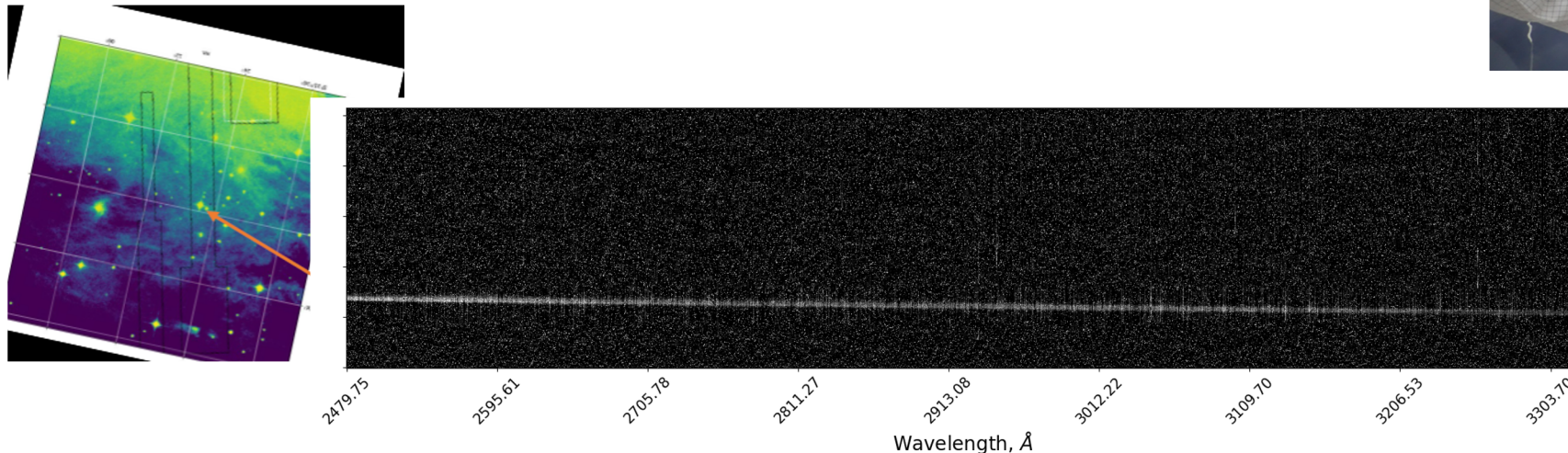
Transiting Exoplanet  
Survey Satellite



# Colorado Ultraviolet Transit Experiment (CUTE)



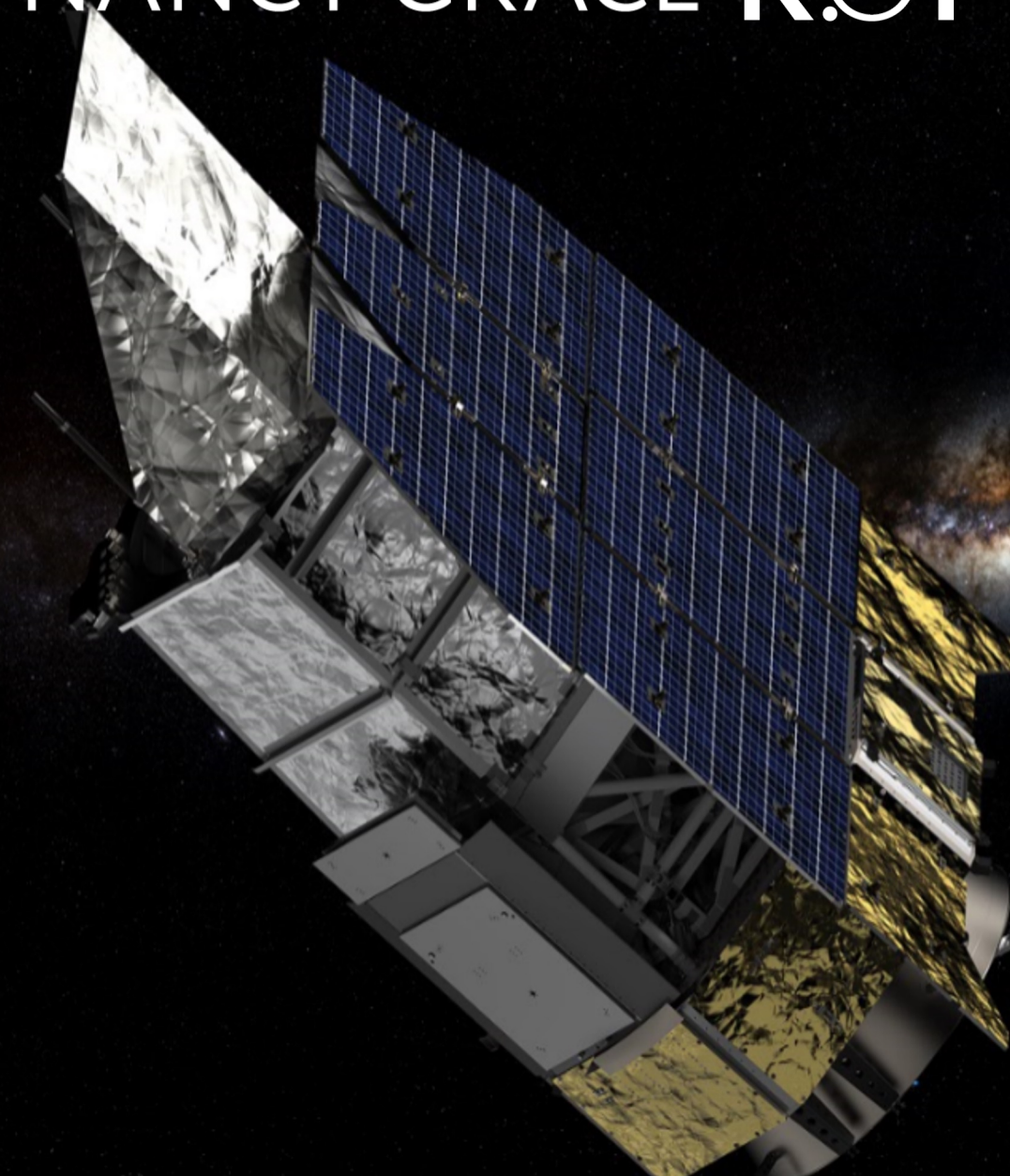
- CUTE is a 6U cubesat with an NUV (255 – 330nm) telescope and spectrograph to study transiting planets around bright stars
- Launched Sep 27, 2021, as a secondary payload on the LANDSAT-9 mission. Spacecraft tracked and communications established within 2 days in coordination with amateur satellite community
- Spacecraft commissioning complete mid-Nov 2021, science payload commissioning to be complete by late-Jan 2022. Science operations to execute Feb 1 – Oct 31, 2022



*Calibration spectrum from CUTE  
(K. France/University of Colorado)*



# NANCY GRACE R.ÖMAN SPACE TELESCOPE



Completed the Mission Critical Design Review on September 27, 2021.

Project continues to make progress in spite of COVID inefficiencies and supply chain impacts; cost and schedule commitments have been adjusted to accommodate.

NASA launch commitment date is May 2027.

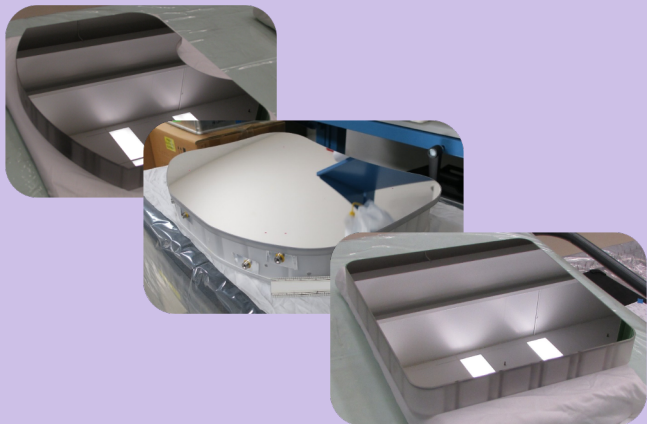
Significant flight hardware in testing or in fabrication. Full complement of flight detectors for Wide Field Instrument are already in hand. Most Coronagraph Instrument critical flight components expected to complete by spring 2022. Anticipate completing telescope in late 2022.

Opportunities for participation in Roman Space Telescope research and support are offered in ROSES-2021; draft solicitation out now.



# NANCY GRACE R.OMAN SPACE TELESCOPE

## Optical Telescope Assembly Hardware



Telescope optics for Wide Field Instrument



Primary Mirror (PM)

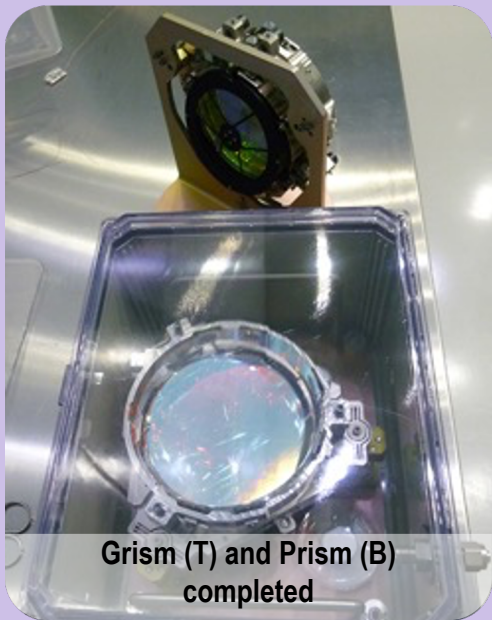


Secondary Mirror (SM)

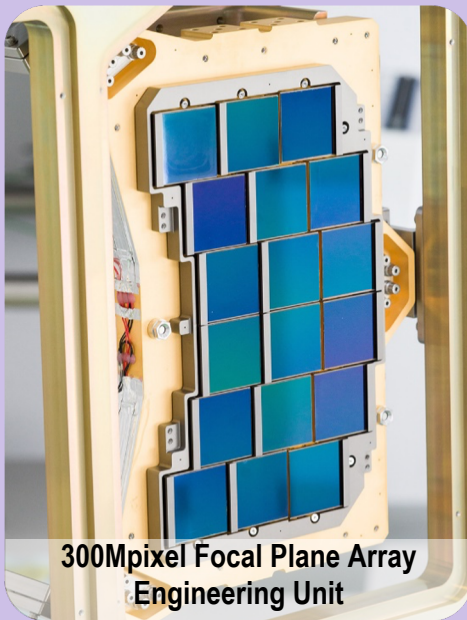


Telescope optics for Coronagraph Instrument

## Wide Field Instrument Hardware

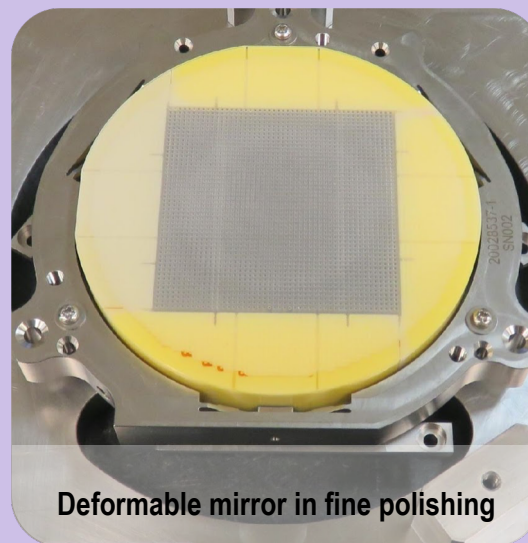


Grism (T) and Prism (B)  
completed

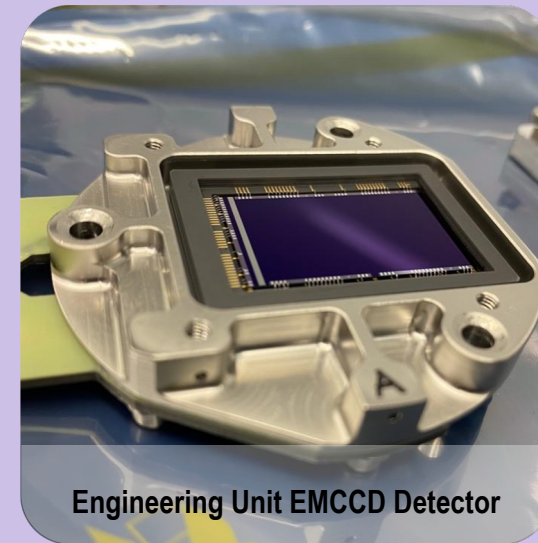


300Mpixel Focal Plane Array  
Engineering Unit

## Coronagraph Instrument Technology Demonstration Hardware



Deformable mirror in fine polishing



Engineering Unit EMCCD Detector





# Roman Proposal Opportunities

- Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Research and Support Opportunities will be solicited as part of ROSES-2022 (deferred from ROSES-2021).
- Includes opportunities for Coronagraph community participation, Wide Field Instrument preparatory science, and key project infrastructure teams.
  - Coronagraph Community Participation Program: Investigators to work with the coronagraph instrument team to plan and execute tech demo observations
  - Wide Field Science: Investigators to work on science preparation activities related to mission performance verification and/or science operations preparation
  - Project Infrastructure Teams: Science teams to support scientific investigations using the data from the core community surveys

Roman Space Telescope Town Hall  
Deferred to NET Jan 24  
Details TBA



# Astro 2020



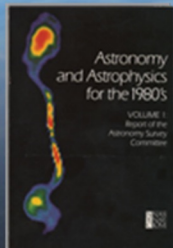


# Astrophysics

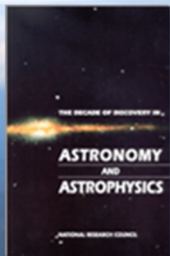
## Decadal Survey Missions



**1972**  
Decadal Survey  
*Hubble*



**1982**  
Decadal Survey  
*Chandra*



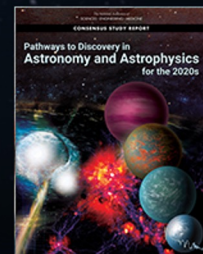
**1991**  
Decadal Survey  
*Spitzer*



**2001**  
Decadal Survey  
*Webb*

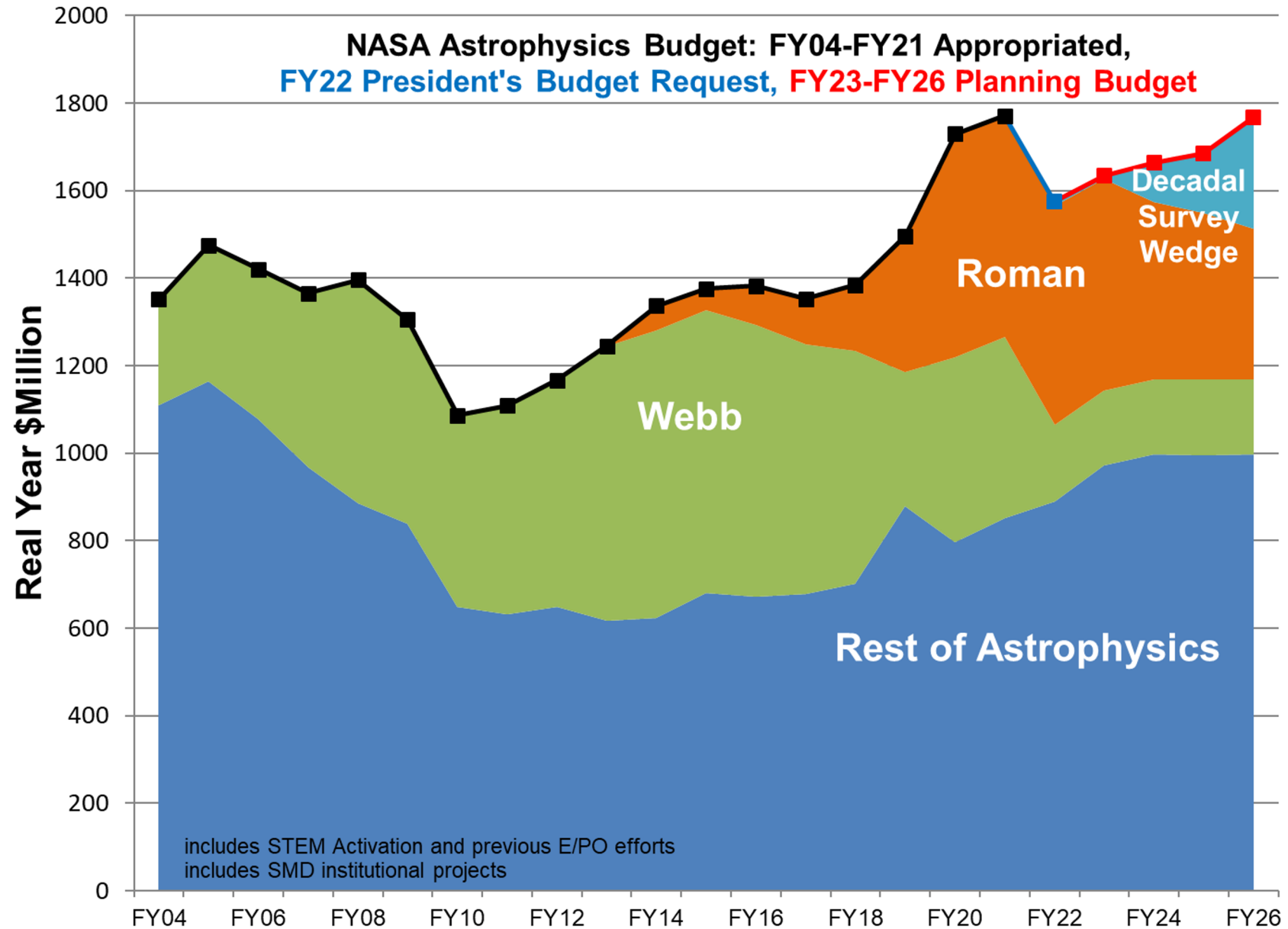


**2010**  
Decadal Survey  
*Roman*



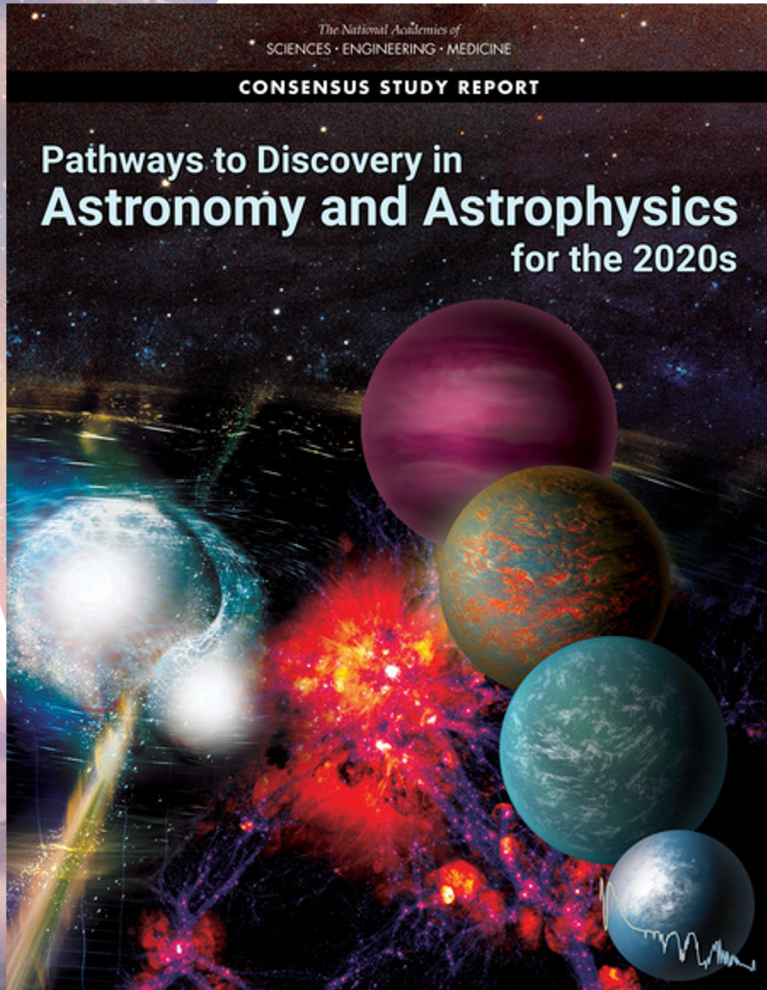
**2021**  
Decadal Survey

# Astrophysics Budget – FY22 Request





# NASA and Astro2020



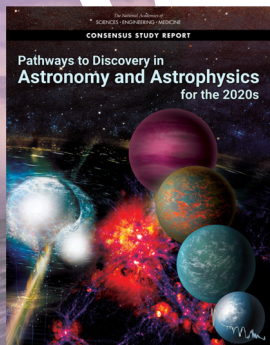
- This is an exciting and ambitious plan for the next decade and beyond
  - Foundations of the Profession: Addressing inclusion, diversity, training, and the profession
  - Research Foundation: Improvements to research and analysis and data centers
  - Sustaining the Operating Portfolio: End SOFIA operations by 2023
  - Technological Foundation: Improvements to technology development programs and the balloon program
  - New Medium Initiative: Time Domain Astrophysics and Multi-Messenger Program
  - New Medium Initiative: Astrophysics Probes
  - New Large Initiative: Great Observatories Science, Mission and Technology Maturation Program for IR/O/UV, FIR, and X-ray Next Generation Great Observatories
  - New Large Initiative: Next Generation Great Observatories, starting with an IR/O/UV Large Mission optimized for exoplanets and astrophysics

# Foundations of the Profession

Actions already being taken by NASA that are responsive to recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey include

- Investment in Bridge Program starting in 2022
- Astrophysics mission design summer school, to help train new PIs, in 2023
- Expansion of the ROSES Inclusion Plan pilot in ROSES-22 with eventual incorporation into selection decisions
- Including diversity and inclusion of teams in evaluation of AO proposals starting in 2022
- Continuation of NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP), while encouraging development of scientific leaders who advance diversity and inclusive excellence, in accordance with external NHFP Review in 2022 **[Community webinar planned for February]**
- Keeping the option of virtual panels to reduce carbon footprint and increase accessibility
- Seeking access to demographic data and indicators pertaining to outcomes of proposal competitions
- Partnerships with NASA's Office of STEM Engagement to increase support of HBCUs, TCUs, and other MSIs
- NASA and NSF are beginning discussions on the state of the profession

Actions are being developed to address remaining Foundations of Profession recommendations

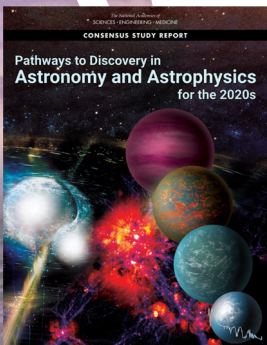




# Research Foundation

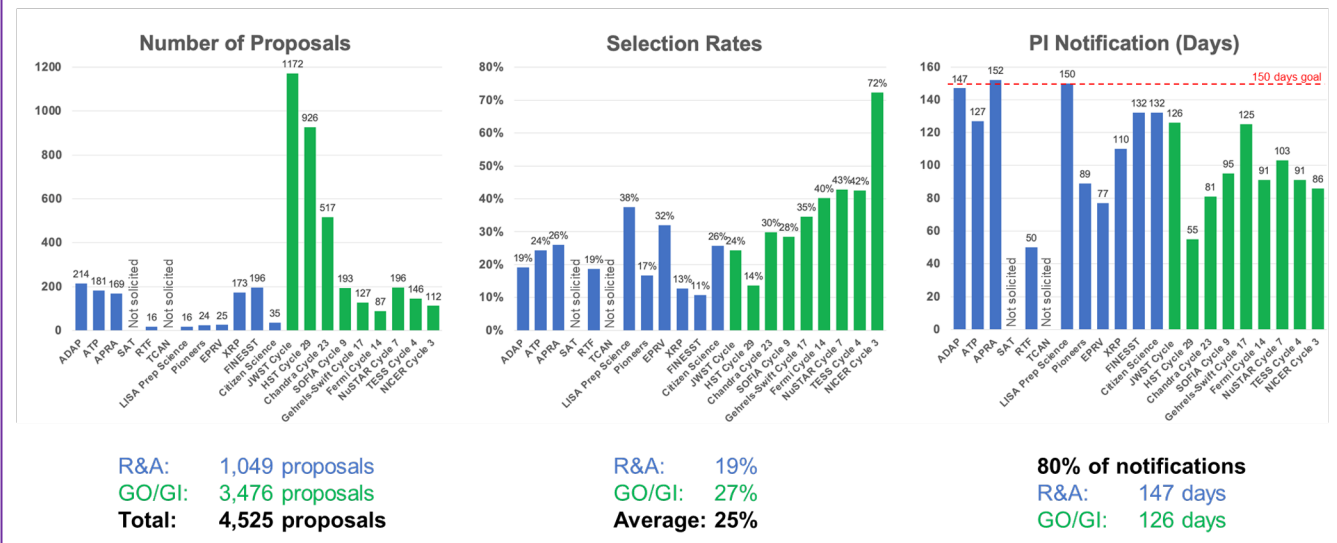
Actions already being taken by NASA now that are responsive to recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey include

- NASA will continue to release data on proposal success rates at all AAS Town Halls and Astrophysics Advisory Committee meetings
- NASA will discuss options of returning to an annual solicitation in the Astrophysics Theory Program (ATP) with the Astrophysics Advisory Committee, recognizing the concerns about selection rates



## Astrophysics R&A Proposal Status Update

December 2020-2021

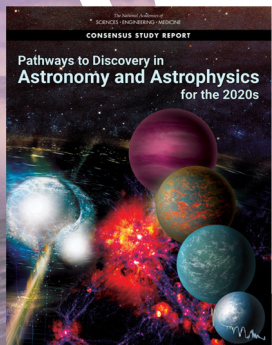


- There will be no ATP call in ROSES-22, as all of the potential new start funding was awarded through the ROSES-21 ATP
- NASA and NSF have begun discussions on coordinating data archives

# Sustaining the Operating Portfolio

**Recommendation:** NASA should end SOFIA operations by 2023, consistent with NASA's current plan.

**Response:** NASA is developing a response to this recommendation.

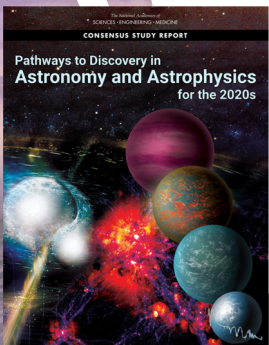




# Technological Foundation

Actions are being developed to address Technological Foundation recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey

- SAT recommendation: NASA has already modified the SAT call in ROSES-21 (and ROSES-22) to include technologies for identified future Great Observatories and identified future Probe missions (see ROSES-21, Amendment 37)
- Balloon Program recommendation: NASA will conduct an external review of the balloon program, possibly as a task force of the Astrophysics Advisory Committee (APAC)
- Explorers recommendation: NASA will maintain the established cadence of 4 AOs per decade, alternating between MIDEX and SMEX and including Missions of Opportunity, and Explorers will remain open to all areas of science
  - 2011 MIDEX AO: TESS and NICER
  - 2014 SMEX AO: IXPE and GUSTO
  - 2016 MIDEX AO: SPHEREx and ARIEL
  - 2019 SMEX AO: COSI
  - 2021 MIDEX AO: Received 20 MIDEX+MO proposals on December 9
  - 2024 SMEX AO: planned AO
  - 2026 MIDEX AO: planned AO



# Future Great Observatories

Large observatories are a critical component of NASA's astrophysics portfolio

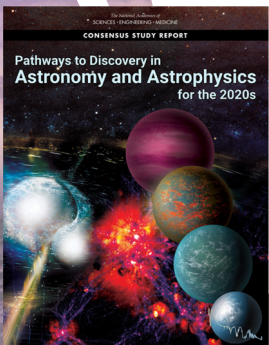
- The Decadal Survey recommends a compelling, feasible, timely portfolio of future great observatories that is part of a balanced Astrophysics program

Today NASA's priority is ensuring mission success for Webb and Roman

- Webb has been launched and has begun its 6-month commissioning phase
- Roman successfully passed its Critical Design Review (CDR) and has been replanned to account for COVID impacts; the new launch commitment date is mid-2027 (7 month delay due to COVID)

Now is not the time to start a Future Great Observatory; now is the time to prepare NASA will take a deliberate, multi-stage planning and strategy approach to the next large observatory mission

- Stage 1 – Focus on enabling science and technology; begin Stage 1 now
- Stage 2 – Begin the Decadal Survey recommended “Great Observatories Maturation Program”; conduct Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) and science / technology / architecture trades; begin Stage 2 in a few years (driven by planning and budget availability)
- Stage 3 – Pre-formulation and decision to start the next Great Observatory; begin after Stage 2 AoA complete (Decadal Survey estimates 6 years for Stage 2)







Get involved



# Keep Informed about NASA

NSPIRES mailing list – information about NASA solicitations

<https://nspires.nasaprs.com/>

Cosmic Origins mailing list, Exoplanet Exploration mailing list, Physics of the Cosmos mailing list – information about NASA missions and science

<https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/cornews-mailing-list.php>

<https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/announcementList/>

<https://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/pcosnews-mailing-list.php>

NASA Astrophysics Federal Advisory Committees

Astrophysics Advisory Committee (APAC)

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/nac/science-advisory-committees/apac>

NASEM Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics (CAA)

[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/bpa/bpa\\_048755](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/bpa/bpa_048755)

Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC)

<https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac.jsp>

Sign up to be a panel reviewer:

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels>





# Why Volunteer to Serve on a NASA Peer Review Panel?

## Personal professional development:

- See how the whole review process works
- Learn what constitutes excellent proposals
- Network with your professional colleagues and NASA scientific staff

## Institutional achievement:

- Improve at competing for NASA money
- Increase knowledge of NASA's research and technology programs

## Investment in the future:

- Help select the most transformative science
- Ensure that all proposals receive a fair and competent review

All reviewers receive an honorarium from NASA

All reviews through (at least) the end of 2021 are virtual

Sign up to be a panel reviewer:

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels>

or contact a NASA program officer (for contact info, see

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/program-officers-list>)



Questions?

