

**Call for Letters of Application
for Membership in the Joint Dark Energy Mission Science Coordination Group
September 2008**

This letter is an invitation to scientists at United States institutions to serve as a member of the Joint Dark Energy Mission (JDEM) Science Coordination Group (SCG). The SCG is being constituted by NASA and DOE to aid in establishing the preliminary requirements and capabilities for a Reference Mission (RM) for JDEM in coordination with the JDEM Project Office (PO) at Goddard Space Flight Center. The SCG Charter is attached and describes the work and issues that will be addressed.

Background: The high scientific priority of a space-based dark energy mission has been well established by a number of National Research Council committees (1). Because dark energy science falls directly in the intersection of the science goals of both NASA and DOE, the two agencies are partnering in the design, development and flight of JDEM. Within NASA, JDEM is a strategic mission, and will be developed as such and in accordance with NASA policies. An Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for dark energy science investigations is anticipated to be issued by the end of 2008, with a launch in the middle of the next decade.

The SCG will be disbanded before the AO is released. This allows ex-members of the SCG to compete in the AO without a conflict of interest.

Agency Agreements: NASA and DOE, with the participation of the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, have agreed to the following points, *inter alia*, in their partnership (2):

- a) DOE and NASA agree to partner in JDEM.
- b) NASA will be the lead agency for JDEM, responsible for the success of the overall mission.
- c) JDEM will be a medium-class mission with competitively selected, PI-led dark energy science investigations. Cost control will be a central tenet of JDEM project management and mission design.
- d) The selected science investigation teams will not provide flight hardware as part of their investigation. The Government will provide the science payload, spacecraft bus, launch vehicle, and other mission components.

This Call: NASA and DOE are soliciting letters from individual scientists to apply for membership in the JDEM SCG. Application letters are invited from individuals, not groups.

Each letter is to be limited to three pages, with 11-pt font and 1-inch margins, and should contain the following content:

- a) Describe your current involvement in dark energy research, including participation, if any, in collaborations that intend to respond to the JDEM AO. (Please note that such participation is not a requirement for selection to the SCG.)

- b) Describe your specific area(s) of expertise in dark energy research. These may include leadership positions, hardware, data analysis, or theoretical work.
- c) Provide references to papers you have published that establish you as a leader in the dark energy community or an expert in JDEM-relevant technology areas.
- d) State how much time you will have in the period from early October to mid December to participate in SCG activities.

Membership in the SCG will be determined by the agencies after review of letters solicited by this Call. The Chair will be Dr. Neil Gehrels from NASA GSFC and will be responsible for delivering the SCG results to the agencies.

The work of the SCG and the RM description by the JDEM PO will be reflected in the subsequent AO to the extent deemed practical and necessary by the agencies.

The SCG will meet in person 3 to 5 times for (typically) two to three days. They also may have phone-in meetings. Meetings will be called, and agendas will be set, by the SCG Chair. Meetings will be held in the Washington, DC, area. All travel expenses will be reimbursed by the two agencies.

In order to release the AO by the end of 2008 (as anticipated), the SCG work and the RM description must be completed by mid December 2008. Members of the SCG need to ensure that they have the necessary time to do the significant amount of work that will be required in a relatively short period of time.

Your reply to this invitation should be submitted by e-mail only, and be received by September 26, 2008. Please email your letter to both of the Program Scientists listed below:

Dr. Michael Salamon
Program Scientist
Astrophysics Division
NASA

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Dr. Kathleen Turner

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Thank you for your interest in helping to define this exciting mission.

- (1) Quarks to Cosmos, IWG, BEPAC, EPP2010. [<http://jdem.gsfc.nasa.gov>]
- (2) The letters describing the initial agreement of the agencies can be found at [<http://jdem.gsfc.nasa.gov>]