

has been used successfully in the following types of activities:

(a) Exploration and space research flights. (1) Examples include Space Transportation System (STS) flights with attached payloads, generally Spacelab payloads; and free-flying spacecraft, such as Explorers, Pioneers, Space Telescope, Landsats, and Long Duration Exposure Facilities.

(2) Types of opportunity include:

(i) Participation as a Principal Investigator (PI) responsible for conceiving and conducting a space investigation (This may involve a major piece of instrumentation. In the case of a "facility" or "multiuser" payload, each PI's responsibilities would ordinarily involve a relatively minor portion of the total instrument.);

(ii) An opportunity to serve on a PI's team as a member or Co-Investigator;

(iii) An opportunity that generally involves the use of data from another investigator's instrument as a guest investigator or guest observer (Guest investigators usually participate after the primary objectives have been satisfied for the investigations involved.); and

(iv) A team formed from selected investigators to assist in defining planned mission objectives and/or to determine, in a general manner, the most meaningful instruments to accomplish the mission objectives.

(3) The investigation acquisition process may be applicable to all types of opportunities. The supposition common in these opportunities is that the best ideas and approaches are likely to result from the broadest possible involvement of the scientific, technological or applications user communities.

(b) Minor missions. (1) Examples include research aircraft, sounding rockets, balloons, and minor missions that are generally of short duration, small in size, often single purpose, and subject to repetition. Many investigations are follow-on to past-flight investigations.

(2) Types of opportunity include:

(i) PIs responsible for investigation; and

(ii) Data use or analysis.

(3) Opportunities for participation on minor missions are generally suitable

for normal acquisition procedures. The use of an announcement describing the general nature and schedule of flights may be appropriate when considered necessary to broaden participation by requesting investigator-initiated research proposals. Normal acquisition procedures shall be used for follow-on repeat flights. Although NASA seeks unique, innovative ideas for these missions, the prospect of reflight and the latitude in determining number and schedule of flights argue against the need for the use of the investigations acquisition process to force dissimilar proposals into an annual or periodic competitive structure. On the other hand, there are some minor missions addressed to specific limited opportunities; for example, a solar eclipse. When such limitations indicate that the special competitive structure is needed, it should be authorized.

(c) Operational and operational prototype spacecraft. (1) Examples include spacecraft built for NASA and other agencies' missions.

(2) The user agency can be expected to specify performance parameters. Payload definition will be the responsibility of the user agency and NASA. Specifications sufficient for normal acquisition procedures can be produced. Use of data from the mission is the responsibility of the user agency. Thus, the investigation acquisition process is not required.

(d) Supporting Research and Technology (SR&T). (1) Examples include studies, minor developments, instrument conceptualization, ground-based observations, laboratory and theoretical supporting research, and data reduction and analysis which is unconstrained by a specific opportunity.

(2) Programs in these areas tend to go forward on a continuing basis, rather than exploiting unique opportunities. Normal acquisition procedures should be used. A general announcement of area of interest could be made when greater participation is deemed advisable.

1872.204 Approval.

The Program AA is responsible for determining whether or not to use the investigations acquisition process. Normally on major projects, or when a

project plan is required, use of the investigation acquisition system will be justified and recommended in the project planning documentation and will be coordinated with staff offices and discussed in the planning presentation to the Deputy Administrator or designee.

Subpart 1872.3—The Announcement of Opportunity

1872.301 General.

An announcement of opportunity (AO) is characterized by its generality. However, it is essential that the AO contains sufficient data in order to obtain meaningful proposals. To a considerable extent, the detail and depth of the AO will depend on the objective. The purpose is to get adequate information to assess the relevance, merit, cost, and management requirements without overburdening the proposer.

1872.302 Preparatory effort.

(a) Headquarters offices and the responsible project installation must consult prior to release of the AO.

(b) The program office shall:

(1) Synopsise the AO in the Commerce Business Daily and on the NAIS prior to release.

(2) Determine if there is instrumentation or support equipment available which may be appropriate to the AO with all necessary background data considered essential for use by a proposer;

(3) Determine mailing lists, including the mailing list maintained by the International Affairs Division, Office of External Relations, for broad dissemination of the AO; and

(4) Assure mandatory provisions are contained in the AO.

(c) Other methods of dissemination of the AO may also be used, such as the use of press releases, etc. When possible, the AO should be widely publicized through publications of appropriate professional societies; however, NASA policy does not allow payment for the placement of advertisements.

[62 FR 4477, Jan. 30, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 9966, Feb. 27, 1998]

1872.303 Responsibilities.

(a) The program office originator is responsible for the content of the AO and coordination with concerned Headquarters offices and field installations. All personnel involved in the evaluation of proposals are responsible for familiarizing themselves and complying with this part and other applicable regulations. To this end, they are expected to seek the advice and guidance of appropriate Headquarters program and staff offices, and Project Installation management.

(b) The Program Office is also responsible for coordinating the AO with the International Affairs, Educational Affairs, Management Support Divisions, Office of External Relations, Office of General Counsel, Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, and Office of Procurement prior to issuance (see NPD 1360.2, Initiation and Development of International Cooperation in Space and Aeronautical Programs).

(c) Concurrence of the Office of Procurement is required before issuance of an AO.

[62 FR 4477, Jan. 30, 1977, as amended at 63 FR 32764, June 16, 1998; 64 FR 36606, July 7, 1999; 67 FR 61520, Oct. 1, 2002]

1872.304 Proposal opportunity period.

(a) The AO must accommodate to the maximum extent practicable opportunities afforded by the Shuttle/Spacelab flights. The following methods may be used to enable an AO to be open for an extended period of time and/or to cover a series or range of flight possibilities or disciplines:

(1) The AO may be issued establishing a number of proposal submission dates. Normally, no more than three proposal submission dates should be established. The submittal dates may be spread over the number of months most compatible with the possible flight opportunities and the availability of resources necessary to evaluate and fund the proposals.

(2) The AO may be issued establishing a single proposal submission date. However, the AO could provide that NASA amend the AO to provide for subsequent dates for submission of proposals, if additional investigations are desired within the AO objectives.