



# Status Report: Decadal Survey on Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023-2032

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# What is the Statement of Task?

- The statement of task can be found at this website:  
<https://www.nas.edu/planetarydecadal>
- It is the guiding document for the survey
- It outlines exactly what the sponsors—NASA and NSF—and the National Academies want the survey committee to do, and the Academies commits to do no more and no less than that specified in the statement of task
- The website contains additional information (scope, considerations, and approach) in the form of suggestions to make the survey most useful to NASA and NSF, but they are not binding on the survey committee



# What is the Same?

- Overview of relevant disciplines
- Broad survey of the current state of knowledge
- Inventory of top-level science questions and research activities
- Recommendations on optimum balance between target bodies, large/medium/small missions, ground versus space, etc.
- Assessment of infrastructure
- Discussion of strategic technology development needs
- Ranking large/medium space missions (with cost and technical evaluation), ground-based facilities, supporting research



# What is New?

- A higher profile for astrobiology and planetary defense
- Recommended activities clearly traceable to goals/objectives
- Decision rules to accommodate significant deviations in budget, new discoveries, or technological development
- Awareness of human exploration activities undertaken by NASA and international partners
- Discussion of opportunities for collaboration with other SMD divisions, NASA directorates, federal agencies, international partners and the private sector
- Consideration of issues related to the state of the profession



# Mars Specific Language

The Statement of Task makes no specific statement about Mars. But the Considerations section of the (non-binding) guidance to the survey does:

- “The prioritization of flight investigations for Mars and the Moon should be integrated with flight investigation priorities for other solar system objects into a single prioritized list of all recommended missions;” and
- “The study will assess whether NASA’s plans for Mars Sample Return (MSR) play an appropriate role in the research strategy for the next decade. The study may include findings and recommendations regarding those plans, as appropriate, including substantive changes in NASA’s plans. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to, actions ranging from increased investments (upscope) to reduced investments (downscope) and termination. It is not necessary to rank MSR, among other recommended activities for space.”



# Nominations

Nominations and self nominations are encouraged. Requirements:

- Scientific and technical expertise and objectivity;
- Broad thinking, open-minded, and not an active proponent of a specific project;
- Experience in the management of a project, organization, or equivalent enterprise, is advantageous; and
- Willing to participate in-person in survey committee activities
- Submission deadline 1 May
- Submit at <https://www.nas.edu/planetarydecadal>



# Early-Career Opportunities

- **Early-career Event 1:** 27 March  
[https://youtu.be/j1j\\_tbj9WI4](https://youtu.be/j1j_tbj9WI4)
- **Early-career Event 2:** 7 May—Whitepapers 101—details TBA
- **Early-career Event 3:** June?—details TBA
- **White Papers:** any and all can author and submit a white paper on any topic relevant to the statement of task. Deadline 4 July
- **Full-time Job:** The SSB has a job vacancy (PhD preferred)  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/humanresources/>
- **Note Takers**—recruiting graduate students to take notes at meetings will begin once meeting dates are set
- **Lloyd V. Berkner Internships**—Available at SSB for undergraduates (summer and autumn) and graduate students (autumn only)  
<https://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/index.htm>
- **Christine Mirzayan Fellowship:** Offered annually by Academies for graduate student and <5 years of Ph.D.  
<https://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/policyfellows/>





# White Paper Specifications

- 7 pages or less total, single spaced, including all figures, tables, references and appendices; references can include web links to other documents
- Include cover page (beyond the 7-page limit) containing title of the white paper, primary author's name, phone number, institution, email address, and list of co-authors with their respective institutions
- 12-pt font, 1-inch margins on all sides of the document
- Papers must be in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat formats
- White papers larger than 50 Mb in size will not be accepted; files much smaller are encouraged. Please compress your figures if possible. Hyperlinks to higher resolution versions of illustrations is acceptable.
- Submission deadline 4 July
- Submit at <https://www.nas.edu/planetarydecadal>





# Schedule for Decadal Survey

2020	
January to March	Statement of Task posted, Funding proposal to NASA, NSF agreed to support, town hall and Early-career event 1 <b>Survey officially began (20 March)</b> , website established, Whitepaper and nominations sites open
May	Nominations close (1 May), Early-career event 2 Chair(s) announced, other appointments begin
July	White paper deadline (4 July)
August	First meeting of steering group (virtual or in-person)????
September	First meetings of panels (virtual or in-person)????
2021	Complete draft of survey report (early 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter)
2022	Survey report released (late 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter), dissemination starts
2023	End of dissemination/NASA contract (late 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter)



# Thank You

<https://www.nas.edu/planetarydecadal>

