

Characteristics Table for Planning for the Next Decadal Survey for Earth Science and Applications from Space: Community Input Questionnaire – form available [here](#).

As noted, the questionnaire highlights seven process-related characteristics in which the two prior decadal surveys took different approaches. To address these questions, a deeper understanding of the earlier surveys is necessary. The table below summarizes and compares how each survey approached these characteristics.

CHARACTERISTIC	ESAS 2007	ESAS 2017
Prioritization approach	Missions	Science & observables
Roles of science & applications	On equal terms	Fully integrated
Decision rules, especially to guide unanticipated budget shortfalls	Included in general terms	Expanded and systematized the decision rules into a more structured decision framework
Organizational structure	Thematic panels and a steering committee with liaison to each panel	Thematic panels and a steering committee with liaison to each panel
Costing constraints	Build an aspirational budget	Build to an inflation-only growth budget, and cap mission costs
Community input	Single Request for Information (RFI)	Two-stage RFI
Priority of Program of Record	Pre-Decadal missions	Highest priority for completion