



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

ExoPAG 33

Jan 3, 2026

Joshua Pepper

ExoPAG Executive Secretary,
Deputy ExEP Program Scientist

Hannah Jang-Condell NASA HQ

– ExEP Program Scientist

Rebekah Dawson NASA HQ

– Planetary Science Division Liaison

Galen Fowler, NASA HQ

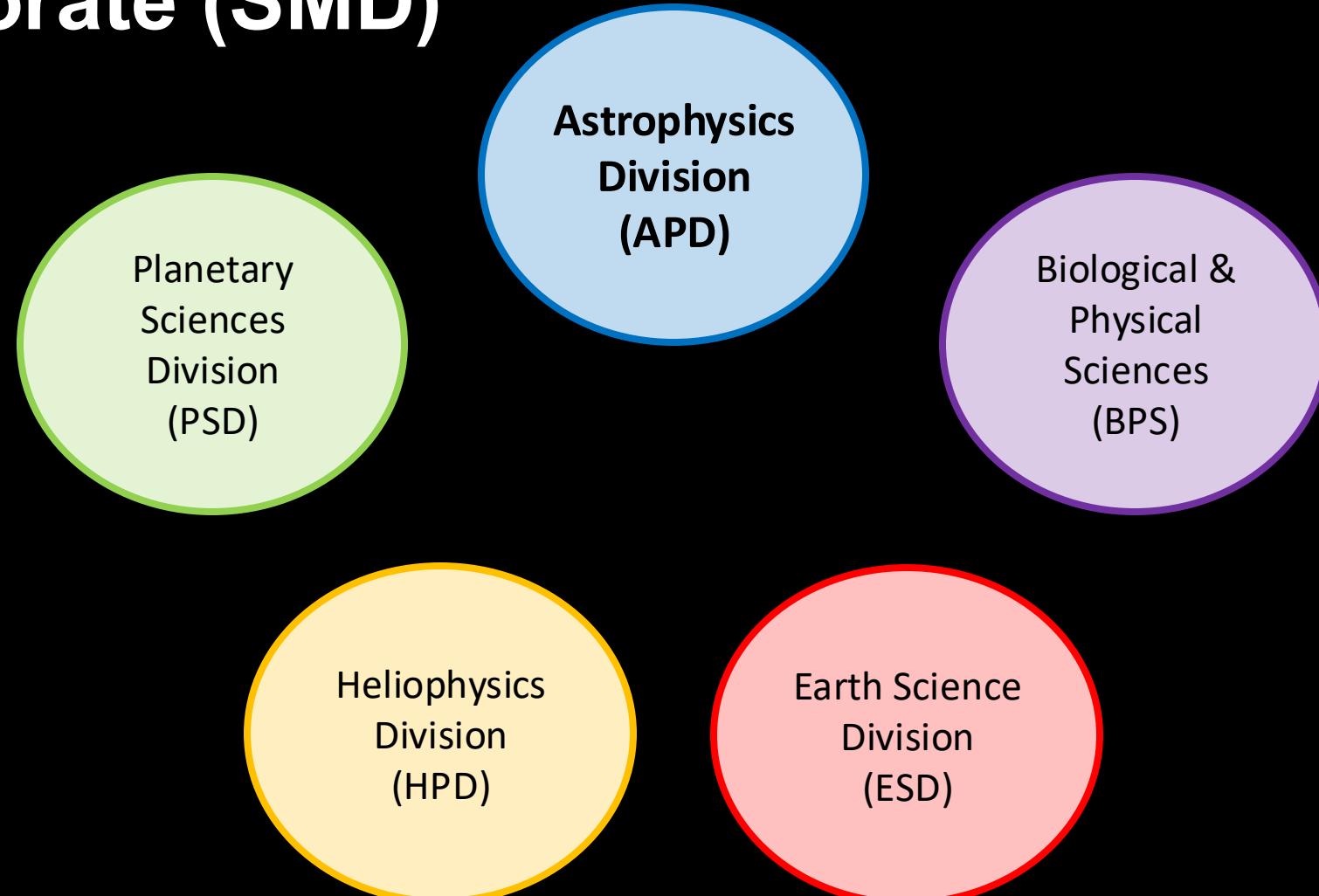
– Heliophysics Division Liaison



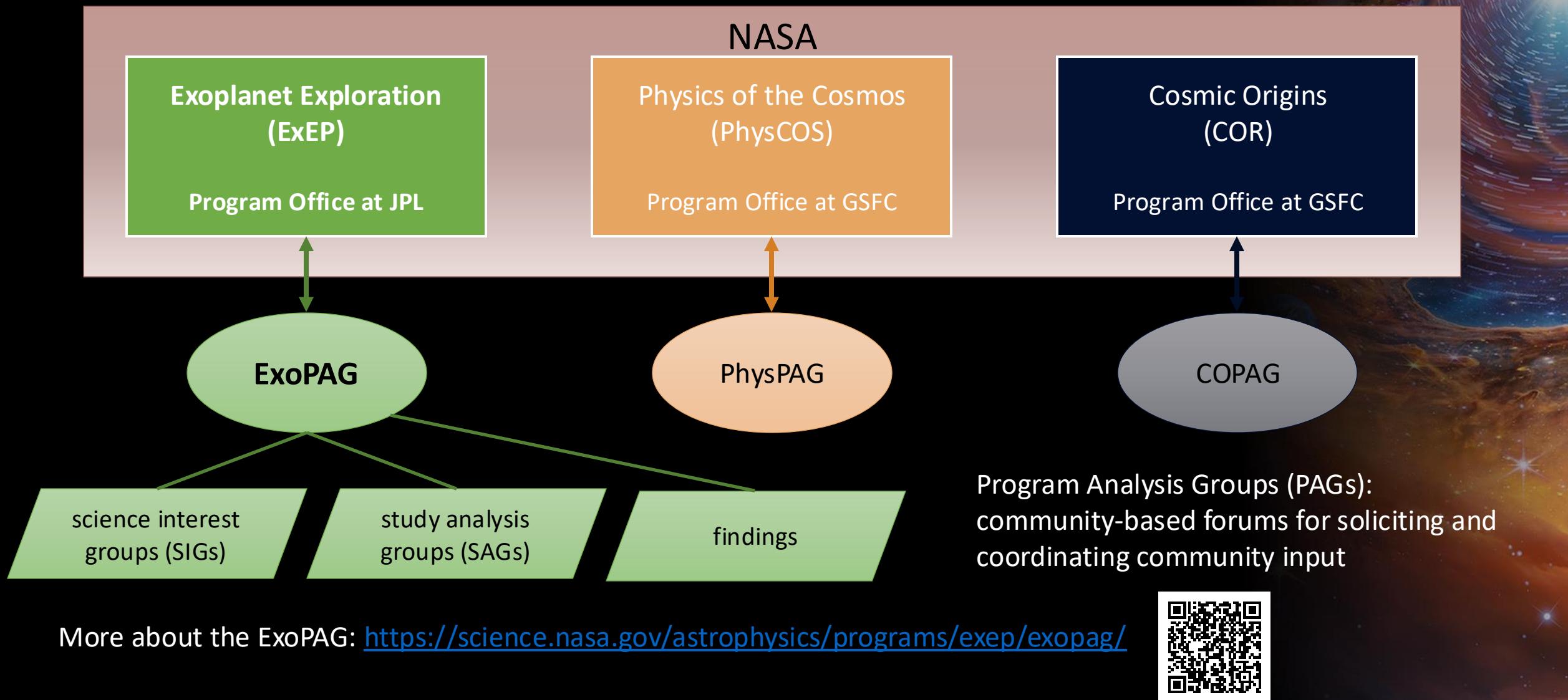


Overview of NASA and the ExoPAG

NASA Science Mission Directorate (SMD)



NASA APD Focused Programs



The ExoPAG Executive Committee

Request for new member nominations is on the street as of late Nov 2025.

Submissions due Feb 27, 2026 (email to me).

joshua.a.pepper@nasa.gov



Name	Home Institution
Ian Crossfield (Chair)	University of Kansas
Thomas Beatty	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Aparna Bhattacharya	University of Maryland
Chuanfei Dong	Boston University
Kate Follette	Amherst College
Julien Girard	STScI
Renyu Hu	JPL
Avi Mandell	NASA GSFC
Sarah Peacock	NASA GSFC
Malena Rice	Yale University
Ji Wang	Ohio State University
Schuylar Wolff	University of Arizona
Lily Zhao	University of Chicago

New members/roles



ExoPAG 33 and you

- The ExoPAG is you – the community. The executive committee is responsible for soliciting and coordinating community input into the development and execution of NASA's Exoplanet Exploration Program.
- What works? What doesn't work? What would you like to see NASA do in the short and long-term in the field of exoplanets and exoplanet formation?
 - Please provide this feedback and discussion at today's Open Mic session from 5:15-6:00pm!

If you have questions for APD Acting Division Director Shawn Domagal-Goldman, please submit them via:
https://oneplace.nasa.gov/qa_app?sys_id=e8e635929725fe50b244b72ef053afc2&view=sp&id=q_a_session&table=x_nasal_centerqa_session in advance of the Joint PAG session tomorrow.





NASA HQ Updates

HQ Personnel Updates (since Jan 1, 2025)

Departures		Arrivals	
Name	Role	Name	Role
Mark Clampin	APD Division Director → SMD Deputy Associate Administrator	Shawn Domagal-Goldman	Deputy Director SED at GSFC → APD Division Director
Eric Smith	Associate Director for Research	Peg Luce	HPD Deputy Division Director → APD Deputy Division Director
Sandra Cauffman	APD Deputy Division Director	Tahani Amer	Deputy Director of the Joint Agency Satellite Division (JASD) → Acting Associate Director for Flight Programs
Joe Smith	Associate Director Flight Programs	Jessica Gaskin	Acting Director of the Astrophysics Branch at MSFC → Associate Director for Concepts and Technology Development
Garth Henning	Astrophysics Strategic Missions Program Manager	Breann Sitarski	Program Executive
Janet Letchworth	Program Executive	Dan Moses	Program Scientist
Shahid Habib	Program Executive	Amber Young	Program Scientist
Valerie Connaughton	Program Scientist	Daria Pidhorodetska	Project Support Scientist
Mike Garcia	Program Scientist		
Mario Perez	Program Scientist		
Pat Knezek	Program Scientist		
Linda Sparke	Program Scientist		

Astrobiology Leadership @ NASA HQ



Becky McCauley Rench, Ph.D.
Lead Scientist for Astrobiology
Planetary Sciences Division



Hannah Jang-Condell, Ph.D.
Associate Lead for Astrobiology
Astrophysics Division

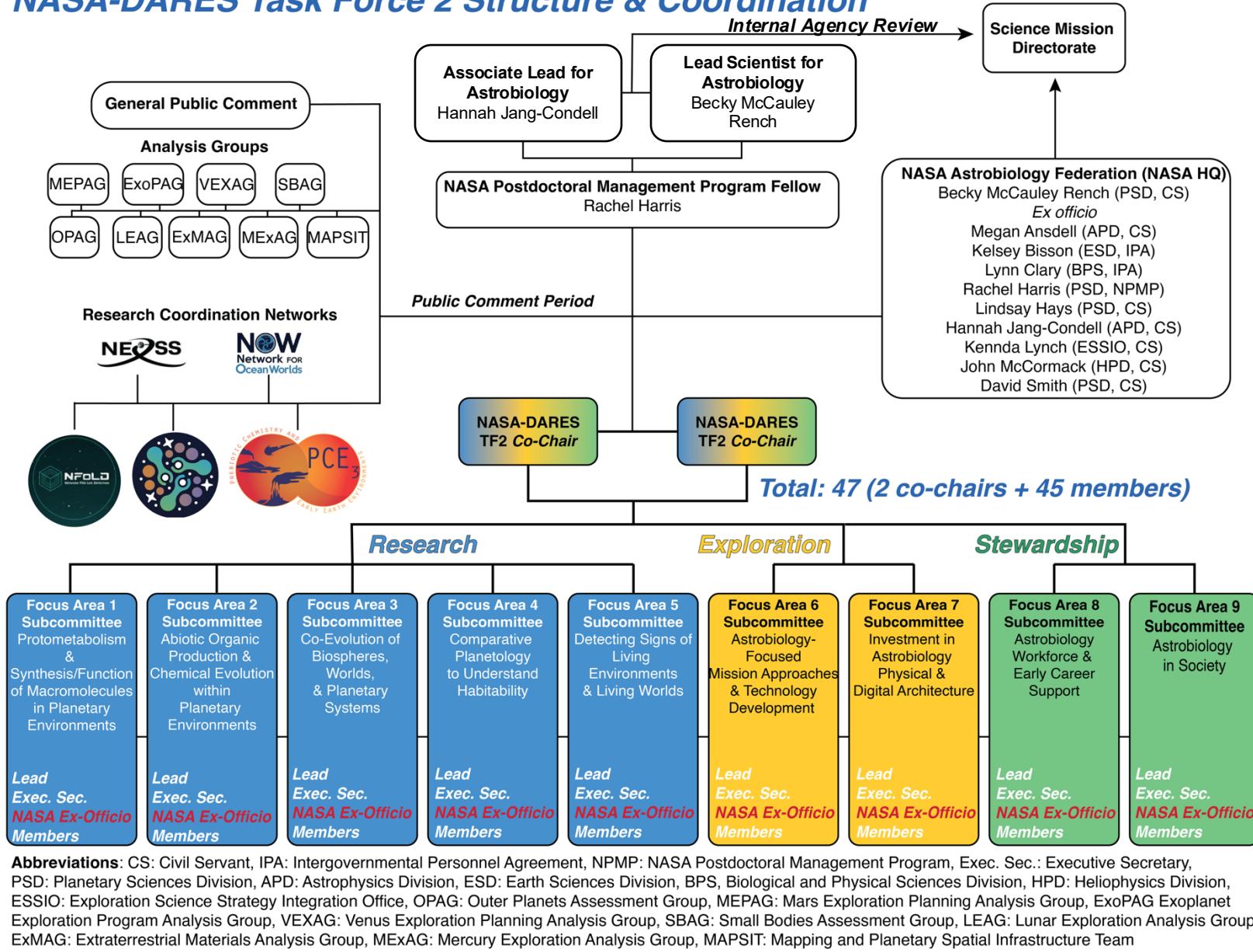
Astrobiology: NASA-DARES

NASA-DARES Community Update

Tuesday, January 6th, 2026
6 - 8 PM MST

Phoenix Convention Center,
Room 126C

- NASA-DARES: The NASA Decadal Astrobiology Research and Exploration Strategy
- RFIs requested & received (>130 response)
- Task Force 1: (completed)
 - Assessed and synthesized white papers
 - Integrated findings into Focus Areas
 - Produced an RFI Findings Report
- Task Force 2: (being assembled)
 - Refine Focus Areas
 - Continue to strengthen alignment with foundational docs
 - Develop and present draft strategy for public release and community comment
 - Finalize strategy and remain available during internal NASA review

NASA-DARES Task Force 2 Structure & Coordination

NASA-DARES TF2 was solicited via
<https://go.nasa.gov/ABStrategyRFI>

47 Total Participants

- 2 Co-Chairs ✓
- 9 Focus Area Writing Subcommittees, each comprising:
 - 1 Lead ✓
 - 1 Executive Secretary (ECR)
 - 3 General Members
 - + 1 NASA Ex-Officio Member ✓

Anticipated Schedule (Updated Dec. '25)

- January 2026 – December 2026
- Kick-Off Meeting (Jan '26)
- 5 Virtual Webinars (Winter '26)
- Community Update/Draft Strategy for Public Release at AbSciCon (May '26)
- Public Comment Period (May - June '26)
- Community Roundtable (June '26) (Virtual)
- Internal Agency Review (Aug. '26)
- Strategy Publication and Roll-Out at AGU Fall Meeting 2026 (Dec. '26)



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Room 126C

DARES TF2 Co-Leads



Kathleen Mandt, NASA GSFC



Robin Wordsworth, Harvard University

Learn More
& Stay Up To
Date



NASA-DARES:

*The NASA Decadal Astrobiology Research and Exploration Strategy
Coming 2026*

Focus Area	Focus Area Lead	Ex-Officio
1 Protometabolism	Loren Williams, GA Tech	Eve Berger, JSC
2 Abiotic Organic Production	Maitrayee Bose, ASU	Aaron Burton, JSC/HQ
3 Co-evolution of Biospheres	Karl Stapelfeldt, JPL	Jessica Lee, ARC
4 Comparative Planetology	Charity Phillips-Lander, SWRI	Kelsey Bisson, HQ
5 Detecting Signs	Aaron Regberg, NASA JSC	Mary Beth Wilhelm, ARC
6 Missions & Tech Dev	Morgan Cable, PSI	Niki Parenteau, ARC
7 Physical & Digital Architecture	Diana Gentry, NASA ARC	Robin Fergason, ARC/HQ
8 Workforce	Christina Richey, SETI Inst.	Melissa Kirven-Brooks, ARC
9 Astrobiology in Society	Sara Yeo, U of Utah	Becky McCauley Rench, HQ (Daniella Scalise, ARC)

Questions/Comments: HQ-RFIastrobio@mail.nasa.gov



Other news and events

- HWO SIG (<https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/sigs/hwo-sig/>)
 - Co-Chairs: Vivian U, Jessie Christiansen, Fabio Pacucci, Laura Mayorga, Richard Massey, Joe Burchett
- NASA Town Hall and Update: 12:45pm Monday, West Building 301AB
- Mid-decadal and Astro 2030 planning: See discussions at the Joint PAG meeting tomorrow and the NASA Town Hall



Research Updates



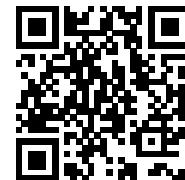
Exoplanets Research Program (XRP)

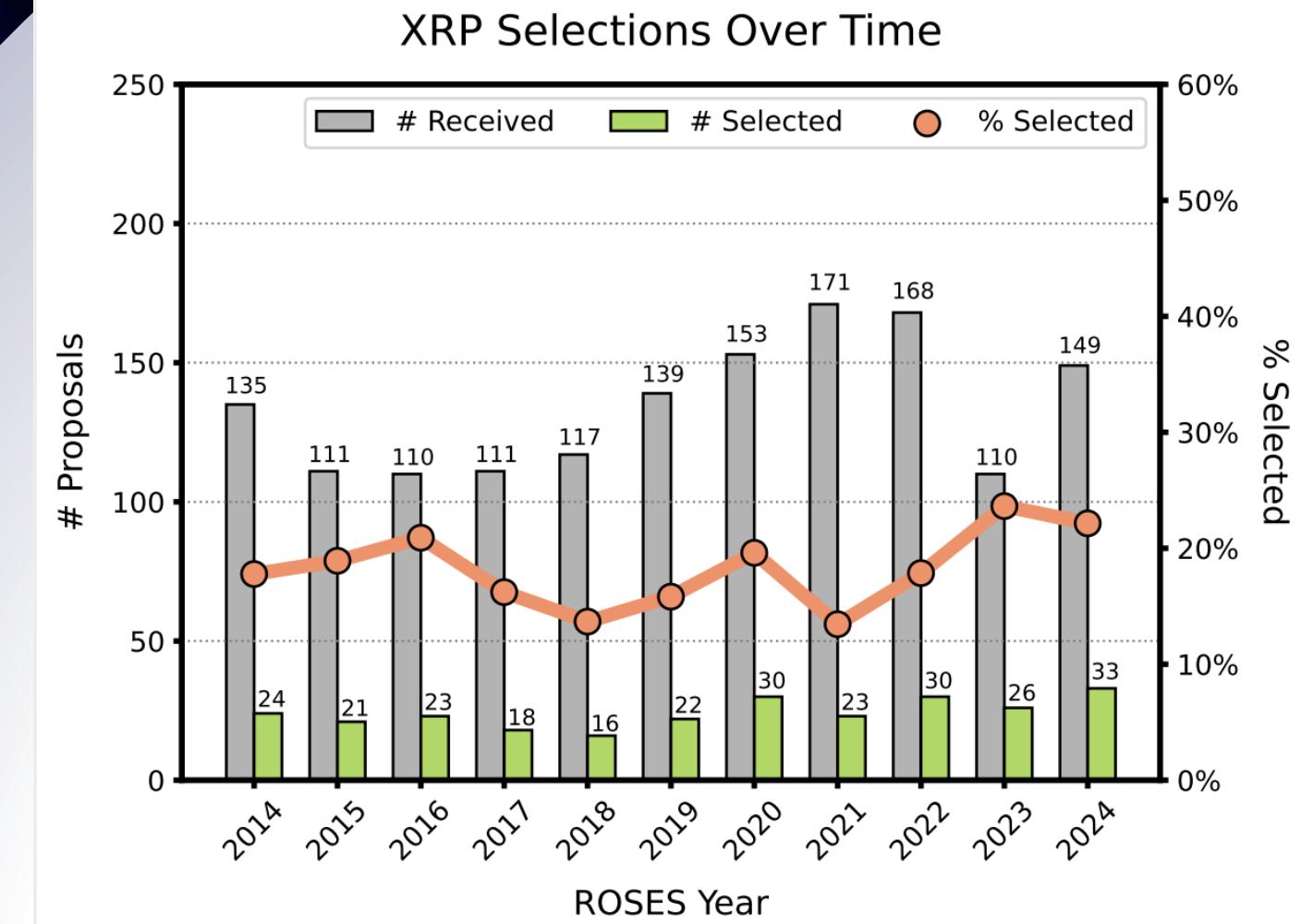
- The Exoplanets Research Program (XRP) element solicits basic research proposals to conduct scientific investigations that significantly improve our understanding of exoplanets and exoplanet formation.
 - Proposals must clearly and rigorously describe how results will facilitate and enhance the interpretation of data from specified NASA space missions, and/or lead to predictions that can be tested with NASA space mission observations.
 - Proposals for analysis of NASA mission data cannot anticipate future data releases; all key data must be public by the date of full proposal submission.

Exoplanets Research Program (XRP)

- XRP-25 is in ROSES-25
 - Step-1 deadline: Nov 25 → Dec 3, 2025 **(past)**
 - Step-2 deadline: Jan 26, 2026
- Program Officers: Joshua Pepper (APD), Rebekah Dawson (PSD), Galen Fowler (HPD).
- Comments:
 - Use the "suggested reviewers" solicited in the NSPIRES cover-page. We look at this!
 - **If you seek to fund investigators at another federal institution via an interagency award (IAA), you must seek and receive approval from program officers prior to submission (past)**
 - The response to Step-1 this cycle was very high, an 80% increase since XRP-24, reflecting the great community interest in XRP.

Email program officers with any scope questions
or concerns: HQ-XRP@mail.nasa.gov





- Since ROSES-20, exoplanet research has been **consolidated into XRP**. Exoplanet technology development remains in APRA.
- XRP **submission rates** in ROSES-24 increased by 28%, returning close to program high level marks.
- XRP **selection rate: ~21%**.

New/Recent R&A Programs

- **ROSES-2024: D.20 Exoplanet Mass Measurement (EMMP)**
 - PIs received initial notification (decline or selectable)
 - POC – Hannah Jang-Condell
- **ROSES-2024: D.21 U.S. Contributions to Ariel Preparatory Science (USCAPS)**
 - 10 of 22 proposals selected for funding
 - POC – Hannah Jang-Condell
- **Keck / Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO) Precursor Science & Technology Maturation Proposals**
 - POC – Megan Ansdell

C.2 Solar System Science: Planetary Science Division's Omnibus Program

- The new C.2 Solar System Science program element is an **omnibus program** element that is *inclusive of pieces of numerous ROSES-24 program elements* (including Emerging Worlds; components of Habitable Worlds; Planetary Data Analysis, Restoration, and Tools)
- C.2 Solar System Science solicits proposals for research, data analysis, data preservation, and tools that support investigations to help ascertain the content, origin, and evolution of the Solar System and the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the universe.
- C.2 Solar System Science encompasses much more than the previous Emerging Worlds-Solar System Science-Solar System Observations planned merger, despite the same name.
- Proposers are encouraged to **read the program element in its entirety**, including the exclusions, to ensure the work they are proposing is relevant to this call.
- This program element also has a shortened Science/Technical/Management (S/T/M) section and only requires the S/T/M, an anonymized table of work effort, and references upon submission.
- For questions, contact Program Officers (hq-scubed@mail.nasa.gov):
Katharine Robinson, Curtis Williams, Rebekah Dawson-Rigas

Please volunteer to review: <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels/solar-system-science-program-roses/>





Get Involved

Stay Connected with NASA

- Nominate yourself to join the Executive Committee of the ExoPAG
 - See details in ExoPAG announcement emails, send nominations to Joshua Pepper (joshua.a.pepper@nasa.gov)
- Join an ExoPAG SIG or SAG
 - SIG #2: Demographics
 - SIG #3: Exoplanet/Solar System synergies
 - HWO Cross-PAG SIG
 - SAG #24: Starshade
 - SAG #25: Technosignatures
 - SAG #26: Reflectance Spectroscopy for HWO
- Create new SIGs or SAGs
- Recommend Findings
- Contribute new ideas in the ExoPAG 33 Open Mic Forums (today@5:15pm)
- Volunteer to be a panel reviewer (<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels>)
- Early career (grad, postdoc) researchers, volunteer to serve as an executive secretary on ROSES panels – simply email any program scientist to express interest



- ExoPAG EC nominations: 
- Volunteer to serve on review panels: 
- Keep up with Astrobiology: 
- Submit questions for the Astrophysics Director at the Joint PAG session: 

Questions?