



Announcement of Opportunity Letter

Dear Students:

NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is seeking new and unique ideas for the next generation of robotic missions to explore the depths of space. The Discovery Program currently includes a total of ten missions: five spacecraft to explore comets and asteroids; one to land a rover on Mars, one to orbit Mercury, one to orbit the Moon, one to collect atoms of solar wind, and one to search for Earth-sized planets outside of our solar system.

You are invited to submit a proposal to the Discovery Program with your ideas for a space science investigation. Complete proposals will demonstrate knowledge of the Discovery Program and its missions. A proposal will explain the value of past, present, and future explorations of space to society and life on Earth. It will identify and describe new areas for scientific investigation, provide suggestions for technological developments, and list the types of experts needed to design, build, test, and launch a successful mission.

In order to assist you in responding to this call for proposals, we have enclosed a video that provides general information about the Discovery Program and the individual missions. In addition, you will receive a list of important Internet sites that provide greater detail about each mission and a timeline.

Proposals are restricted to two pages. You should describe the science goals of your proposed mission and explain its value to science and society. Please include suggested dates for launch and a timeline for meeting the science objectives of your mission. Additional pages may include one design drawing of the spacecraft, approximate mission costs, the types of people needed to design, build, test, launch, and maneuver the spacecraft, and the way in which scientists are involved in all stages of the mission.

The Discovery Program staff at NASA looks forward to receiving your response. Thank you in advance for your interest and hard work.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gilbert

Paul A. Gilbert, Discovery Program Manager
