

Newsletter 16-15

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ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW HORIZONS KUIPER BELT EXTENDED
MISSION SCIENCE PLANNING OPPORTUNITY

The centerpiece of the proposed New Horizons Kuiper Belt Extended Mission (NH-KEM) is the very close flyby of the 20-40 km wide KBO 2014 MU69 on 1 January 2019. NH-KEM will also observe ~20 other KBOs at phase angles and/or at resolutions not otherwise possible, producing a unique database of KBO phase curves, satellite searches, and ring searches.

If NH-KEM is approved, mission schedules require that both distant KBO observations and MU69 close flyby planning must begin almost immediately.

The New Horizons team plans to use a portion of its September Science Team Meeting the week of Sep 19 to gather community input to NH-KEM observation plans.

Those are interested in listening to or potentially presenting at this activity should complete the indication of interest form at

<http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/kem-workshop-1/index.php> [1]

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SOFIA CYCLE 5 CALL FOR OBSERVING PROPOSALS RELEASED

The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) Science Center is pleased to announce the Call for Proposals for SOFIA Cycle 5 observing time. The Universities Space Research Association (USRA) is issuing this call on behalf of NASA.

The SOFIA Cycle 5 call solicits proposals for approximately 476 hours of observing time. Cycle 5 observations will be scheduled during the time period between February 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018. A Southern Hemisphere deployment that may include up to 3 instrument campaigns is planned during Cycle 5, nominally around mid-2017.

The deadline for Cycle 5 proposal submission is July 1, 2016, 9 p.m. PDT.

A formal update of this Call for Proposals that will incorporate any late changes in the observatory's status will be posted publicly on June 10, 2016.

Seven instruments will be available during SOFIA Cycle 5: EXES, FIFI-LS, FLITECAM, FORCAST, FPI+, GREAT (or upGREAT), and HAWC+.

The HAWC+ instrument and the upGREAT High Frequency Array mode will be commissioned after the proposal deadline for Cycle 5, and are offered



for General Investigator observing in Cycle 5 on a shared risk basis, contingent on successful commissioning.

This call is open to all qualified astronomers, world wide, in the U.S. and outside the U.S., except for those currently affiliated with German institutions.

Astronomers with a German professional affiliation can participate through the parallel German Cycle 5 call issued by the German SOFIA Institute (DSI) on behalf of the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

Total General Investigator funding available through the Cycle 5 call is expected to be approximately \$5M, contingent on budget confirmation and NASA approval.

Information regarding preparation and submission of observing proposals is available on the Cycle 5 webpage:

<https://www.sofia.usra.edu/researchers/proposing-and-observing/proposal-calls/cycle-5> [2]

We look forward to your participation in this exciting new research opportunity.

Erick Young
Director of SOFIA Science Mission Operations

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FEEDBACK TO OPAG ON NASA R&A RESTRUCTURING

Dear Outer Planets Community:

Your feedback is requested! The AG Chairs have been asked by the Space Studies Board (SSB) for each community’s perspective on the efficacy of NASA’s Planetary Science Division (PSD) Research and Analysis (R&A) programs, following the 2014 restructuring. The OPAG community feedback will comprise a portion of Alfred’s OPAG presentation to an SSB R&A

Review Committee on May 13.

The R&A Committee has been tasked to address the following questions:

1. Are the PSD R&A program elements appropriately linked to, and do they encompass the range and scope of, activities needed to support the NASA Strategic Objective for Planetary Science and the Planetary Science Division Science Goals, as articulated in the 2014 NASA Science Plan?

2. Are the PSD R&A program elements appropriately structured to develop the broad base of knowledge and broad range of activities needed both to enable new spaceflight missions and to interpret and maximize the scientific return from existing missions?

The SSB Review Committee guidelines include:

- Will conduct its review in the context of current budgetary realities that have differed from projections assumed prior to the release of the most recent planetary science decadal survey;
- Will not examine the PSD R&A programs as they were prior to the restructuring; and
- Will not comment on the strategic science goals and objectives of PSD, SMD, or NASA.

Please send comments you would like to see presented to mcewen@lpl.arizona.edu [3] by May 9. All responses will be confidential, and any included in Alfred's presentation will be without attribution.

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FEEDBACK TO MEPAG ON R&A RESTRUCTURING

Dear Mars Community:

Your feedback is requested! Jeff Johnson, MEPAG Chair, has been asked by the Space Studies Board (SSB) for the Mars community's perspective on the efficacy of NASA's Planetary Science Division (PSD) Research and Analysis (R&A) programs. The Mars community feedback will comprise a portion of Jeff's presentation to an SSB R&A Review Committee. The committee will hold its first meeting at the National Academy of Sciences on May 12-13, and has invited representatives from all of the PSD analysis groups.

In particular, the committee has been tasked to address the following questions:

1. Are the PSD R&A program elements appropriately linked to, and do they encompass the range and scope of activities needed to support the NASA Strategic Objective for Planetary Science and the Planetary Science Division Science Goals, as articulated in the 2014 NASA Science Plan?
2. Are the PSD R&A program elements appropriately structured to develop the broad base of knowledge and broad range of activities needed both to enable new spaceflight missions and to interpret and maximize the scientific return from existing missions?

Please answer the survey questions by May 9 at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jlek-3leOfBXe6juOx-hqT3iLhiGEsm1bjS7Y3A2PgM/viewform> [4]

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JOBS/POSITIONS OPPORTUNITIES

A) POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN MARS SCIENCE

The Department of Planetology and Habitability at the Centro de Astrobiología (CAB) invites applications for a postdoctoral position to support investigations on the nature of the early Mars environments.

The successful candidate will work with Dr. Alberto Fairén in the

ERC-funded Project “icyMARS”.

Applicants should have a recent Ph.D. in the field of Planetary Science or related discipline, and a background in Mars research. Expertise in Geochemistry or Microbiology would be helpful, but not required.

The position, placed in Madrid, would be for two years, with possible extension to a third year contingent upon funding availability and satisfactory performance. Benefits include working in a young enthusiastic team at one of the leading Planetary Sciences institutions in Europe, full social benefits according to the Spanish social care system, and a very competitive salary.

Applicants should send a letter of interest, a curriculum with a list of publications, a brief (maximum two pages) statement of research interests, and a list of three references, no later than July 1 2016, to Alberto Fairén (agfairen@cab.inta-csic.es [5]).

The starting date is negotiable, but should be no later than Jan 1, 2017.

B) PLANETARY INTERIOR STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS SCIENTIST

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a Federally-Funded Research and Development Center operated by the California Institute of Technology for NASA, invites applications for a full-time position in interior structure and dynamics of planets and satellites. The scientific scope of interest for this position is broad, but candidates should have demonstrated expertise

in one of the following areas: Modeling of signal propagation in solid bodies and atmospheres, with applications, for example, to icy satellites, Mars, Venus, and giant planets; Processing of geophysical data, in particular seismic signals, over a broad range of frequencies; Material mechanical properties and their dependence on several parameters including pressure, temperature and forcing frequency; and/or Modelling of planetary internal processes. The selected applicant is expected to participate in or lead science definition and advancement of new science, technology, and mission proposals.

The applicant must have a PhD in Geology, Geophysics, Physics, or a related technical discipline. The applicant shall have an established reputation along with a broad knowledge of planetary measurement approaches and expertise in modeling and interpretation of the data for planetary science applications.

JPL/Caltech offers a competitive salary and impressive benefits, and provides research opportunities at the leading edge of Planetary Science. To view the full job description and apply, visit: <http://Careerlaunch.jpl.nasa.gov/> [6] (Job ID #2016-6584). Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and should include a curriculum vitae, a career statement with research objectives, and contact information for three professional references. JPL/Caltech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**C) POSTDOCTORAL POSITION REACTION DYNAMICS &
PLANETARY SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA, USA**

The Reaction Dynamics Group, Department of Chemistry, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, invites applications for one postdoctoral position. The appointment period is initially for one year, but can be renewed annually based on availability of funds and satisfactory progress. The salary is

competitive and commensurate with experience. Successful applicants should have a strong background in experimental reaction dynamics, UHV technology, and pulsed laser systems. The goal of the experiments is to probe the formation of alkylphosphonic acids via interaction of ionizing radiation with low temperature interstellar and cometary analog ices. Reaction products will be probed via tunable vacuum ultraviolet photoionization of the subliming molecules.

Solid communication skills in English (written, oral), a publication record in internationally circulated, peer-reviewed journals, and willingness to work in a team are mandatory. Only self-motivated and energetic candidates are encouraged to apply. Please send a letter of interest, three letters of recommendation, CV, and publication list to Prof. Ralf I. Kaiser, Department of Chemistry, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822-2275, USA [ralfk@hawaii.edu] [7] <<mailto:ralfk@hawaii.edu>> [7]].

Applicants must demonstrate their capability to prepare manuscripts for publications independently. The review of applications will start May 30, 2016, and continues until the position is filled. A description of our current research group can be found at <http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/Bil301/welcome.html> [8].

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UPCOMING MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

A) ENCELADUS AND THE ICY MOONS OF SATURN

Boulder, Colorado July 26-29, 2016

ABSTRACT DEADLINE : May 12, 2016

<http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/enceladus2016/> [9]

B) LUNAR AND SMALL BODIES GRADUATE CONFERENCE 2016 -

ANNOUNCEMENT AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 3

Registration is now open for the 7th Annual Lunar and Small Bodies Graduate Conference (LunGradCon 2016) to be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at the NASA Ames Research Center, preceding the NASA Exploration Science Forum (ESF). With the expanded interests of the Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI), the scope of this year's LunGradCon includes both lunar and small bodies science. LunGradCon provides an opportunity for grad students and early-career postdocs to present their research on lunar and small body science in a low-stress, friendly environment, being critiqued only by their peers. In addition to oral presentations, the conference presents opportunities for professional development and networking with fellow grad students and postdocs, as well as senior members of SSERVI. A limited amount of funding will be provided for travel and lodging costs.

The deadline for registration and abstract submission is June 3rd 2016, 11:59 PM PDT.

For more details, please visit:

<http://impact.colorado.edu/lungradcon/2016/> [10]

or email any questions to: lungradcon@gmail.com [11]

C) SUMMER SCHOOL IN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS FOR ASTRONOMY

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo Physics and Astronomy Department offers

The DPS is a Division of the

the two week course (July 25 - August 5). The course covers software design and implementation of telescope and instrument control systems, observation planning tools, and software for analyzing and archiving astronomical data.

A full course description and instructions for enrollment are given at:

<http://phys.uhh.hawaii.edu/Summer2016/summer2016.php> [12]

D) ASTEROIDS, COMETS, METEORS 2017 - 1ST CIRCULAR

10-14 April 2017
Montevideo, Uruguay

www.acm2017.uy [13]

The series of conferences "Asteroids, Comets, Meteors" focuses on the research of small Solar System bodies. The series constitutes the leading international meeting in this field. The first three conferences took place in Uppsala, Sweden in the 1980's, and afterwards they were organized every ~3 years all over the world.

Next year's meeting will be held in the Edificio Polifuncional Jose Luis Massera that belongs to the Universidad de la Republica and is located beside the Faculty of Engineering. The building is located near the sea coast in a beautiful green area called Parque Rodó. There are several hotels and restaurants in the surroundings within walking distances. Furthermore, Montevideo downtown is only a ten minute drive away. There are several bus lines connecting downtown with Parque Rodó.

For those interested in attending, please, fill the form with your personal data. Provide us a tentative title of your contribution and/or the subject you are working on:

<http://acm2017.uy/x/pre-registration/> [14]

Funds are very limited, so we expect to cover some accommodation expenses for graduate students and recent PhDs; and it will be possible to waive the registration fee for some people needing some assistance.

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Send submissions to:

Anne Verbiscer, DPS Secretary (dpssec@aaas.org [15])

To unsubscribe visit <http://aas.org/unsubscribe> [16] or email unsubscribe@aas.org [17]

To change your address email address@aas.org [18].

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Links

- [1] <http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/kem-workshop-1/index.php>
- [2] <https://www.sofia.usra.edu/researchers/proposing-and-observing/proposal-calls/cycle-5>
- [3] <mailto:mcewen@lpl.arizona.edu>
- [4] <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jlek-3leOfBXe6juOx-hqT3iLhiGEsm1bjS7Y3A2PgM/viewform>
- [5] <mailto:agfairen@cab.inta-csic.es>
- [6] <http://careerlaunch.jpl.nasa.gov/>
- [7] <mailto:ralfk@hawaii.edu>
- [8] <http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/Bil301/welcome.html>
- [9] <http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/enceladus2016/>
- [10] <http://impact.colorado.edu/lungradcon/2016/>
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- [12] <http://phys.uhh.hawaii.edu/Summer2016/summer2016.php>
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