

NASA Announcement of Opportunity, NNH07ZDA0030  
 "Explorer Program: Small Explorers (SMEX) and Missions of Opportunity."

Questions From / Answers To Potential Proposing Community

Most Current Update as of Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Question Number	Date Received	Date Posted	Question	Answer
1	Wed, 28 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	<p>Prior to the release of Amendment2 ...</p> <p>Words from AO regarding phases ...</p> <p>For the purposes of this AO, the NASA mission management processes are divided as follows.</p> <p>Formulation is divided into:  <b>Phase A</b> - Concept and Technology Development; and  <b>Phase B</b> - Preliminary Design and Technology Completion.</p> <p>Approval is the process for transitioning into Implementation, which for Explorer missions is the step leading to a <b>Confirmation Review</b> with the Associate Administrator for SMD.</p> <p>Implementation is divided into:  <b>Phase C</b> - Final Design and Fabrication;  <b>Phase D</b> - System Assembly, Integration and Test, and Launch (extending through in-orbit checkout, usually launch plus 30 days);  <b>Phase E</b> - Operations and Sustainment; and  <b>Phase F</b> - Closeout. Phase E is to include analysis and publication of data in the peer reviewed scientific literature and delivery of</p>	<p>The development timeline from the original AO was a generic template focused on <u>Explorer missions</u>; the SMEX addendum for ISS payloads redefines the development schedule according to <u>ISS milestones</u>...so, for all practical purposes...it appears to us that:</p> <p>NASA's mission management process Phase B would match up to ISS Opportunity's PDR, NASA's mission management process Phase C would match up to ISS Opportunity's CDR, NASA's mission management process Phase D would match up to ISS Opportunity's certification and integration.</p>

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			<p>the data to an appropriate NASA data archive.</p> <p>Since the ISS Opportunity specifically states ...</p> <p>Payloads would be required to complete ...PDR approximately 36 months before launch, CDR approximately 24 months before launch, and be delivered for certification and integration approximately 9 months before launch.</p> <p>This contradicts the combined PDR/CDR in the original AO. And as a result, will affect the phases, and the timeline for reviews (SRR, CR, PER, PSR, etc). Can you please provide a new lifecycle timeline including phase definition, phase duration, and reviews?</p>	
<b>2a</b>	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	What is the largest payload that could be launched on HTV?	HTV has constraints as do the platforms. Please refer to the <i>Payload Allowable Up-Mass &amp; Volume Summary Table</i> on the last page of this Q&A document. For further reference, data are documented in D683-97497-01 Rev A and D684-11532-01 Rev B. Please note, however, these documents are ITAR-controlled and available to eligible parties via specific request emailed (with "SMEX AO" in Subject field) to: <a href="mailto:pdl.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov">pdl.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov</a> .
<b>2b</b>	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Can we have more information on interfaces to HTV for a FRAM-based payload, and what are the load capabilities?	Please refer to the <i>Payload Allowable Up-Mass &amp; Volume Summary Table</i> on the last page of this Q&A document. FRAM-based payloads still need to meet requirements (e.g., interface, data, power, etc.) as

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				presented. For further reference, data are documented in D683-97497-01 Rev A and D684-11532- 01 Rev B. Please note, however, these documents are ITAR-controlled and available to eligible parties via specific request emailed (with "SMEX AO" in Subject field) to: <a href="mailto:pdl.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov">pdl.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov</a> .
<b>2c</b>	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	From the HTV Cargo Standard Interface Requirements Document, Unpressurized Cargo for Multi-purpose Type (NASDA-ESPC-2857 Rev. B, Part 2, Volume 3), p. 15. If it is assumed that <i>[payload]</i> is limited to load capabilities of the Active FRAM and that the HTV pallet will accommodate this interface, will the payload developer have to analyze the system loads (payload plus Active FRAM) to the HTV or will that be done by the HTV organization?	The payload developer will be given a launch environment and is responsible for performing analysis to assure that the payload and adapter assembly can withstand the launch environment. The payload developer is then obligated to provide this model so that the integrated analysis can be performed by JAXA.
<b>2d</b>	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	NASDA-ESPC-2857, Rev. B states that "the cargo provider shall provide the HTV with the cargo structural mathematical model that is verified in accordance with TBD". This means that <i>the [payload]</i> will need a loads model(s) of the Active FRAM. Who will provide the Active FRAM model to <i>[payload]</i> ? On the other hand, note that the ELC representative stated that the ELC will conduct the loads analyses of the complement of payloads provided on Active FRAMs.	The FRAM structural models will be provided by the ISS program. The integrated analysis of the ELC will be performed by the ISS program.
<b>2e</b>	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	What is the specific static and dynamic envelope for any particular payload on the HTV and the reference document specifying	<i>JAXA/HTV-relevant response information in process.</i>

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			the constraints?	
2f	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	[One reference] stated that there may be up to a 5 inch differentiation between the HTV and ELC height allowances. Can this be confirmed, and if so, what documents should be used for reference?	JAXA/HTV-relevant response information in process.
2g	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Will simulators be provided to the payload developer to test payload-to-pallet form/fit/function for the HTV and ELC?	ELC: Each payload developer will be issued a portable simulator for initial payload development and testing. After the payload is delivered to KSC, it will be tested with a simulator that provides the same mechanical and electrical/ data interfaces as the ELC. A final test will be performed after the payload is integrated onto the ELC. This final test will be performed with the ELC connected to a simulator that simulates the truss interfaces that the ELC will use.  JEM-EF: Response information in process.
2h	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Where will the simulators be located?	ELC: The simulators will be located at KSC with the exception of the portable simulator which will be provided to the payload developer to use at his home facility  JEM-EF: Response information in process.
2i	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	What are the generic on-dock dates for training, simulations, and flight integration?	Response information in process.
2j	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	What flight and simulation hardware, if any, will be provided as GFE to the payload developer?	ELC: The payload developer will be provided an Express Pallet Adapter and a portable simulator. The schedule dates that the simulator is made available to the payload developer will be coordinated with other users.

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2k	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	If <i>[payload]</i> is displayed outside of stowed configuration and outside normal payload envelope of ELC payload, but not within main EVA translation path, then besides sharp-edge control, is it required to have any other EVA features such as an EVA override for returning it to a stowed configuration?	If a payload is deployed outside the nominal envelop, an exception will have to be processed. The necessity to be re-stowed within the original envelop will be analyzed on a case by case basis.
2l	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	The most current manifest for ELCs implies that we will be exchanged with other payloads resident on ELC locations desirable by <i>[payload]</i> . What are the implications with respect to placing <i>[payload]</i> on the ELC as well as any payload that is to replace <i>[payload]</i> after its mission is complete (see next question)?	Payloads will be mounted on the ELC in locations that meet the individual payload requirements. Payloads will only be exchanged with other payloads if there is a manifest constraint that cannot be avoided. NASA plans to fly additional external payloads after the end of the Shuttle program and currently there is no capability to return ELC payloads after the Shuttle program ends. If there is a need to replace a payload after its mission is complete, it will either be jettisoned or stored at a location that frees the ELC science site for use by the replacement payload.
2m	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Currently, the ELC position on the P3 truss is shown on the lower side of the truss; will it be considered for the upper side instead?	We are requesting an equal number of Zenith and Nadir sites on the ELC for payload operations.
2n	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	The <i>[payload]</i> mission has duration of at least 1.5 years. It is not required that the payload be returned to Earth. We assume that when our term is completed, there may be another payload(s) that will be manifested in our place. By what means will that exchange take place and how should we prepare for our disposal (e.g. exchange to an HTV for demise or removal and release from the ELC as an independent entity)?	The exchange of the payload will be via EVA or EVR transfer. There is an extensive approval process that has to be completed to jettison a payload, however, there are currently no requirements levied on a payload to support jettison of the payload.

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2o	Fri, 30 Nov 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Regarding handling assumptions, are the following facts true? (1) [payload] is a FRAM-based payload, (2) EVR is the default method for exchange of [payload] from the HTV to the ELC.	Payloads going to the ELC and Columbus will use FRAM-based adapters that will be supplied by NASA to the payload developer. The method used to transfer payloads between the HTV and the ELC can be either EVR or EVA, and provisions for both methods are built into the EXPRESS pallet adapter. EVR is supposed to be prime method of payload deployment; however, we will be using both methods to transfer payloads.
3	Tue, 4 Dec 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	I need to access SSP 30425 for the purpose of determining requirements for a candidate ISS experiment design for response to the NASA Small Explorer (SMEX) and Missions of Opportunity Solicitation: NNH07ZDA003O. In searching the NASA website, I found the document listed as: <a href="http://www1ep.jsc.nasa.gov/esdprojects/X38/documents/ssp30425RevB.pdf">http://www1ep.jsc.nasa.gov/esdprojects/X38/documents/ssp30425RevB.pdf</a> However this address is not accessible to me. Is there an alternate place where I may obtain it?	These documents are ITAR-controlled and available to eligible parties via specific request emailed (with "SMEX AO" in Subject field) to: <a href="mailto:pd1.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov">pd1.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov</a>
4a	Tue, 4 Dec 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	A recent Amendment to the 2007 Small Explorer and Mission of Opportunity AO has identified opportunities for ISS payloads to be funded through the NASA/Science Mission Directorate. The Japanese HTV is identified as the "access to space" with NASA controlling the manifest.  Who pays for the launch cost? Is the proposal to SMD supposed to account for this cost or is it covered by the Science Operations Mission Directorate?	HTV launch cost is covered by the JEM launch offset agreement with JAXA, and thus, these costs are not passed to the payload developer.

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<b>4b</b>	Tue, 4 Dec 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	For a payload/experiment attached to the JEM-EF, can an EVA be used to put the experiment in final configuration?	Yes.
<b>4c</b>	Tue, 4 Dec 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	If yes to the EVA question above, who pays for the cost of EVA planning and execution?	EVA costs are a standard service provided by NASA and are not passed on to the payload developer. Developers are responsible for providing the data to NASA that are required to plan and implement the EVA, and should be aware that there are additional integration and safety requirements associated with EVA placements and retrievals
<b>5</b>	Tue, 4 Dec 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Can scientists or engineers in the ISS Payloads office be included as collaborators in a SMEX/MO proposal?	ISS Payloads personnel cannot be included as investigators or collaborators or provide letters of support for any SMEX proposals as this would constitute a conflict of interest.
<b>6</b>	Wed, 5 Dec 2007	Tue, 11 Dec 2007	Do you have any new information as to when the TIM will take place?	The Briefing in Support of Small Explorer Missions of Opportunity AO will take place on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. The teleconference will begin at 9:00 AM. Central Time and end at 12:00 PM noon for the briefing portion. A question and answer period is scheduled from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Central time for those who are interested in further discussion. Pre-registration is required and due by Tuesday, December 18, at 1:00 PM Central time. For more specific information and details, including registration instructions, please see <a href="http://www1.fbo.gov/spg/NASA/HQ/OPHQDC/NNH07ZDA003O/Modification%2003.html">http://www1.fbo.gov/spg/NASA/HQ/OPHQDC/NNH07ZDA003O/Modification%2003.html</a>
<b>7</b>	Wed, 12 Dec 2007	Wed, 12 Dec 2007	I am interested in attending the SMEX AO informational telecon briefing next Wed, Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> . Is this a telecon that can be joined by anyone, anywhere? Or do I have to be in attendance at Johnson Space Center? In	JSC in-person attendance is not required to participate in the Briefing in Support of Small Explorer Missions of Opportunity AO, which will take place next Wednesday, December 19, 2007. Some people are attending in person, and some are

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			other words, could I listen in on the telecon from my office here in San Antonio?	participating via teleconference. The teleconference will begin at 9:00 AM. Central Time and end at 12:00 PM noon for the briefing portion. A question and answer period is scheduled from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Central time for those who are interested in further discussion. Pre-registration is required and due by Tuesday, December 18, at 1:00 PM Central time. For more specific info and details, including registration instructions, please see <a href="http://www1.fbo.gov/spg/NASA/HQ/OPHQDC/NNH07ZDA003O/Modification%2003.html">http://www1.fbo.gov/spg/NASA/HQ/OPHQDC/NNH07ZDA003O/Modification%2003.html</a>
8	Wed, 12 Dec 2007	Wed, 12 Dec 2007	Can a proposal be made for participation in an international collaboration already planned for launch on HTV to ISS? What if NASA would need to provide part of the launch resources in order to participate?	Yes, proposals for participation in international experiments are acceptable. If such a proposal is selected an appropriate international agreement for sharing of launch resources will be made by SOMD. These resources would come from the NASA allocation for HTV launch that is being made available to SMD-supported investigations through this announcement.
9	Wed, 12 Dec 2007	Wed, 12 Dec 2007	Is the SMEX opportunity for access to ISS as a platform limited to external (unpressurized) payloads mounted outside ISS?	No, the flight opportunity to ISS also includes payloads that would be used in the internal (pressurized) volume of ISS, either in the WORF (Window Observational Research Facility) or other internal payload support systems.
11a	Fri, 14 Dec 2007	Fri, 14 Dec 2007	Can the Hexapod pointing platform be utilized by an external payload proposing to this AO?	The Hexapod is owned by the ISS Program, but is not currently scheduled for transportation to or integration with ISS. As part of the proposal, arrangements must be made with SOMD to secure its use and coverage for integration.
11b	Fri, 14 Dec 2007	Fri, 14 Dec 2007	With which platforms is Hexapod compatible?	<i>Response information in process.</i>

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12	Mon, 17 Dec 2007	Mon, 17 Dec 2007	Is it an oversight that this document is not easily accessible to interested parties? Is there another site that contains this and other documents of related scope that is perhaps missed? "SSP 30425, Space Station Program Natural Environment Definition for Design, International Space Station Alpha, Revision B, February 8, 1994" is referred to extensively in the NSPIRES NOI, and it seems this should be reference material that others might be interested in as well.	No, there is no oversight. These technical documents are ITAR-controlled for export control purposes; however, they are available to eligible parties via specific request emailed (with "SMEX AO" in Subject field) to: <a href="mailto:pdl.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov">pdl.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov</a> .
13	Mon 17, Dec 2007	Mon, 17 Dec 2007	Are quantitative field of view data for various external mount points (JEM-EF, Columbus external racks, etc.) publicly available somewhere? There are visual FOV representations from TP-2007-214768 (Overview of Attached Payload Accommodations and Environments on the International Space Station), but it would be useful to have numbers for modeling and design purposes.	Data are not yet available. The payload should assume viewing requirements can be met. If selected, NASA will work to get critical data for the design.
14	Mon, 17 Dec 2007	Mon, 17 Dec 2007	Can I propose to use the Low Temperature Microgravity Physics Facility (LTMPF) on the ISS?	The LTMPF had gone as far as pre-CDR before it was terminated. Since it has been terminated, there are no funds currently allocated for completion of the LTMPF, there are no plans for the completion of the LTMPF, and it is not manifested for launch to the ISS. The Science Mission Directorate, which is sponsoring this AO and will be funding the selected proposals, is not offering the LTMPF as a facility to successful proposers. If you require the LTMPF for your experiment, then you must include the LTMPF as part of your proposal. Your proposal must include a plan for completing the LTMPF sufficient to support your experiment otherwise the LTMPF will not exist.

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				Your proposed budget must include sufficient funding to complete the LTMPF.
15	Wed, 19 Dec 2007	Thu, 20 Dec 2007	Can the participant attendance roster from the Briefing in Support of Small Explorer Missions of Opportunity AO (SMEX AO) on Wednesday, December 19, be made available to potential proposers for networking purposes and possible teaming arrangements?	No, we do not release attendance list. However the SMEX AO (Section 7.1.6) offers a teaming page at <a href="http://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/team.html">http://explorers.larc.nasa.gov/team.html</a>
16	Wed, 19 Dec 2007	Thu, 20 Dec 2007	ISS Partner Missions of Opportunity proposals with launch provided by the Partner were solicited in the original Announcement of Opportunity with a due date of January 15, 2008. Amendment 2 solicited ISS Missions of Opportunity proposals with US-provided launch on the HTV with a due date February 12, 2008. Which of these due dates is applicable for ISS Partner MO proposals that require use of the US allocation on the HTV?	The latter due date of February 12, 2008, is applicable because those proposals are using the U.S. allocation of HTV.
17	Wed, 19 Dec 2007	Thu, 20 Dec 2007	During the teleconference for the SMEX AO amendment, it was mentioned that there are several missions scheduled at present to be installed at various mounting locations aboard the station. Is there a website or document that lists the currently scheduled/approved ISS missions, and where these payloads where be mounted?	Proposers should identify their needs and requirements, and if their payload is selected, those requirements will be used in strategic planning to ensure the external facility that meets those requirements will be available at the required time.
18	Wed, 19 Dec 2007	Thu, 20 Dec 2007	Is there an acronym list available for the presentation charts used in the Briefing in Support of Small Explorer Missions of Opportunity AO (SMEX AO)?	Yes, an acronym list is currently being developed and can be made available to eligible parties via specific request emailed (with "SMEX AO" in Subject field) to: <a href="mailto:pd.l.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov">pd.l.helpdesk@msfc.nasa.gov</a> .

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19a	Wed, 2 Jan 2008	Wed, 9 Jan 2008	Launch environment: The response to question 2c [of this matrix] as currently posted states that "The payload developer will be given a launch environment [for the HTV]." Is this available during the proposal period?	<i>Response information in process.</i>
19b	Wed, 2 Jan 2008	Wed, 9 Jan 2008	Payload mass: The JAXA document at <a href="http://idb.exst.jaxa.jp/edata/021110/199810K02110050/199810K02110050.html">http://idb.exst.jaxa.jp/edata/021110/199810K02110050/199810K02110050.html</a> states that "If the weight of the [JEM-EF] payload exceeds 500 kg ..., a technical coordination will be performed." Can you describe this coordination, and should this be started in the proposal process to verify feasibility?	Negotiation would be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Outcome of negotiation cannot be guaranteed. Proposers cannot be advised on how to handle.
19c	Wed, 2 Jan 2008	Wed, 9 Jan 2008	Payload attachment during launch: What is the volume envelope for a payload that uses the FRAM attachment system to the launch carrier? Specifically, can a "full size" JEM-EF payload (1850 x 1000 x 800 mm) use a FRAM interface for launch to the JEM-EF?	<i>Response information in process.</i>
19d	Wed, 2 Jan 2008	Wed, 9 Jan 2008	Attachment points at JEM-EF: Chart 52 of the 12/19 presentation identifies JEM-EF attachment point #9 as being occupied by JAXA payload "SEDA-AP." During the discussion I believe someone said that this payload will operate for three years. Can we assume that this attachment will be available for a mission of opportunity payload after the SEDA-AP payload has completed its operations?	The proposal can list site requirements and constraints. NASA would negotiate access to specific or equivalent site with all parties.
20	Mon, 7 Jan	Wed, 9	We were told that answers to questions	Transcription of the TIM questions and answers,

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	2008	Jan 2008	posed during the 19 December 2007 ISS TIM would be posted "soon". Now, 2.5 weeks later, we really need these answers so we can finish up our proposal. Will you post these answers soon? When will you post this answers?	including an acronym list culled from the presentation package, is still in process but nearing completion. Since personnel recently returned from holiday off-time, we are working to finish the task as swiftly as possible to accommodate and post for all proposers' availability/access. You will be notified as soon as this occurs.

# Payload Allowable Up-Mass & Volume Summary Table

Attach Payload Location	Allowable Payload Weight (including Flight Support Equipment)	Accommodation Weight (including adapter plate)	Total Weight	Payload Volume (W x H x L)
HTV Exposed Pallet (JEM EF Payload)	979 Lb (445 Kg)	121 Lb (55 Kg)	1100 Lb (500 Kg)	31.5" x 39.4" x 72.8" (800mm x 1000mm x 1850mm)
HTV Exposed Pallet (ExPA, CEPA Payload)	See ExPA & CEPA payload specification for ELC & CEF	See ExPA & CEPA payload specification for ELC & CEF	*See ExPA & CEPA payload specification for ELC & CEF	*See ExPA & CEPA payload specification for ELC & CEF
ELC (ExPA)	490 Lb (222 Kg)	250 Lb (114 Kg)	740 Lb (336 Kg)	34" x 49" X 46" (863mm x 1244mm x 1168mm)
Columbus (CEPA)	388 Lb (176 Kg)	250 Lb (114 Kg)	638 Lb (290 Kg)	34" x 49" X 46" (863mm x 1244mm x 1168mm)
JEM-EF	979 Lb (445 Kg)	121 Lb (55 Kg)	1100 Lb (500 Kg)	31.5" x 39.4" x 72.8" (800mm x 1000mm x 1850mm)

\* : Location constraint applies in HTV Exposed Pallet