

**Tracking Number 2010-01-03 (SC-03)**  
**Establish Program Analysis Groups (PAGs) in Astrophysics**

**NASA Advisory Council Recommendation:**

The Science Committee recommends establishing PAGs for two other themes in Astrophysics (Physics of the Cosmos and Cosmic Origins).

**Major Reasons for the Recommendation:**

The NAC Science subcommittees organize PAGs to provide specialized input to analysis of specific programs within the SMD. These PAGs have proved very useful to the Planetary Science Subcommittee where they were pioneered, and the Astrophysics Subcommittee would like to take advantage of this experience by establishing two PAGs organized along the major Astrophysics themes.

**NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the NAC recommendation and will establish two new PAGs: one for the Cosmic Origins Program, and one for the Physics of the Cosmos Program. The new PAGs will be modeled after the existing PAG for the Exoplanet Exploration Program. The new PAGs will be established by August 31, 2010, in time for all three Astrophysics Division PAGs to hold meetings shortly after the release of the Astro2010 Decadal Survey Report.