

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

Augmented Search for Small Asteroids 2013-01-04 (SC-02)

Recommendation:

The augmented ground-based search for a small asteroid meeting the requirements of NASA's Asteroid Initiative should be formulated broadly to increase the rate of discovery of small asteroids that could threaten Earth.

Major Reasons for Proposing the Recommendation:

While prioritizing the search for a target asteroid, any effort expended on a wider search would increase the Initiative's contribution to Planetary Defense.

Consequences of No Action on the Proposed Recommendation:

Loss of an excellent opportunity for the Initiative to make a larger contribution to national priorities regarding Planetary Defense.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs. NASA's plans for implementing the enhanced asteroid detection and characterization activities called for in the President's FY 2014 budget request are being formulated with this broader goal in mind. In addition to finding asteroids of appropriate size in support of NASA's Asteroid Retrieval Mission, NASA will also be discovering near-Earth asteroids of much larger size, thereby increasing the overall rate of discovery.