



Flight Opportunities



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Dear Flight Opportunities community,

As we welcome the changing season, we're preparing for the final flight demonstrations of the calendar year, and gearing up for 2019's payload proposals.

In recent weeks, we have also welcomed new leadership to our program. Chris Baker will helm Flight Opportunities as the new program executive at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. And here at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center, John Kelly has stepped into the role of program manager. These new leaders, both of whom have previous experience with Flight Opportunities, appreciate the strengths and priorities of both NASA and industry. They are committed to furthering the collaboration established under the pioneering vision of their predecessors.

In this newsletter:

- Time to start preparing for the next REDDI solicitation—coming early 2019
- Near Space's recent flight highlights the benefits of inter-government agency collaboration
- Get to know team member Geyne Crispi, and why those post-flight reports are so important
- Mark your calendars for important upcoming events

Happy reading—and Happy Thanksgiving! We are thankful to have you as a part of this community.

The Flight Opportunities Team

Opportunities

Prepare Now for the Next REDDI Solicitation — Coming Early 2019

The next **Space Technology Research Development Demonstration and Infusion (SpaceTech REDDI)** solicitation is expected to be released in early 2019. Flight Opportunities strongly encourages interested organizations and principal investigators to begin gathering materials to support their proposals now. Past experience has shown that most successful proposals require a few months to put together.

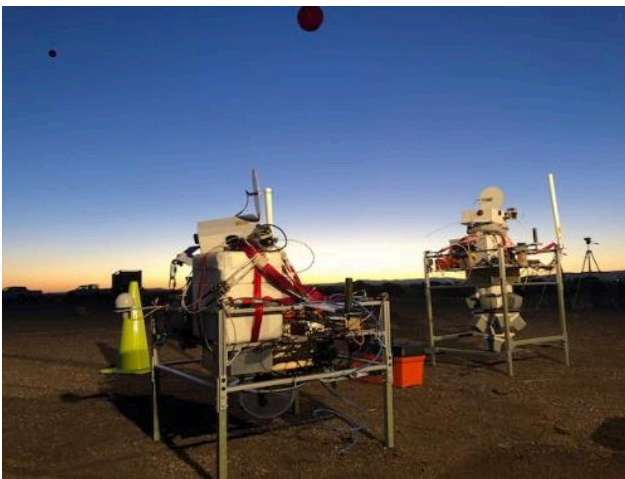
Are you eligible? [Read our qualifications information here to find out.](#)

Looking for information on creating a successful proposal? [Read our quick tips here.](#)

Trying to strengthen a previous proposal? [Contact us](#) for more information.

Recent Flights

Near Space Balloon Flights Demonstrate Inter-Government Agency Cooperation



AFRL's experiment set-up for two recent high-altitude balloon demonstrations. Credit: Near Space Corporation

On September 25, Near Space Corporation (NSC) conducted a flight campaign consisting of two high-altitude balloon launches at Madras Municipal Airport in central Oregon. The goal was a demonstration of multiple technologies comprising the Space Rapid Capabilities Office (SpRCO) Bi-Static Radio Frequency Imager from the U.S. Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), made possible with support from Flight Opportunities.

The instrument suite is designed to address the need for affordable, sustained, all-weather imaging necessary for smart, small satellites with formation flying capabilities. Future applications could be satellites for NASA, military, and other government organizations, as well as industry uses.

Recent Flights *cont.*

Not only are multiple government organizations interested in the future application of the technology, but many have contributed to its development. The imager brings together commercial off the shelf (COTS) components, along with technology developments from the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), NASA's Ames Research Center, NASA's Glenn Research Center, and funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Development efforts have been aided by a contract agreement with Ames and guided by joint AFRL/NASA/DARPA initiatives.

Stephan Ord, technology manager for Flight Opportunities, noted the significance of the multiple government agencies working together to advance the technology.

"The intersection of NASA, AFRL, and other government agencies in the development and demonstration of the Bi-Static Imager illustrates the innovation that can happen when government agencies work together," said Ord. "This convergence of technical expertise, facilities, funding, and leadership has helped to advance a payload that will benefit from knowledge gained from the flights."

With the balloon flights completed successfully, next steps for AFRL include post-processing and analysis of the recovered onboard data to determine sensor accuracy, fidelity, and communications equipment range and performance.

Staff Spotlight

Meet Geyne Crispi: Technology Management Support for Flight Opportunities



Geyne Crispi

As a member of the Flight Opportunities team for more than seven years, Geyne Crispi is instrumental in helping the program function on a day-to-day basis by providing support through information gathering, analysis, and reporting. These behind-the-scenes functions are vital to everything from flight campaign planning and preparation to post-flight follow-up and reporting. We sat down with Geyne to chat about her role on the team and why those 48-hour and final reports are so important.

Staff Spotlight cont.

Tell us a bit about your tenure with the Flight Opportunities program, and what you were doing prior to your current role.

I've been with both Flight Opportunities and NASA for just over seven years. Prior to that, much of my career has been spent working in accounting and office management for the engineering, construction, and trucking industries. So that background has certainly informed the organizational support I bring to the team.

What do you enjoy most about your engagement with the Flight Opportunities community?

I really appreciate being able to connect a personality with the paperwork. The program necessarily involves a lot of reporting, and as the organization has grown I have taken on more of that responsibility, which can sometimes feel a bit impersonal. But for the researchers who have been flying with the program for awhile, they will get to know me when I ask them for post-flight reports and so forth. And it's nice to be able to make those connections and get to know a bit more about the people behind the technology.

It sounds like your role has shifted a bit over the years. How have you grown with the program?

In the early years of the program, I was responsible for getting the principal investigators (PIs) and their teams access to the reduced gravity facilities at NASA's Johnson Space Center so they could participate in parabolic flight activities. By the end of those activities I had processed nearly 350 people for participation in 20 flight campaigns, many with unique challenges to getting them clearance. Now, I'm focused more on the information side of things — data management, reporting, and analysis. So I have less contact with the research teams than I've had in the past, but where we do intersect is in an area that really counts: the two reports that I collect from our PIs are truly essential to the well-being of the program. They provide us with information that allows us to work toward improving Flight Opportunities, as well as data that we report to our mission directorate.

So in other words, those reports are time well spent for the researchers?

Absolutely -- and I think those who have flown often with the program really understand the value. We need that data to rationalize the government's financial investment in flying the selected technologies -- without that, we wouldn't exist! And, the information they report allows us to communicate the value of their work to other researchers and the general public. So, without those reports, we have nothing to show for the government's rather sizable investment in flight testing their payloads. In essence, the reports communicate our return on investment.

Fun fact about you beyond the data?

In a former life, I was a taxi driver for a bit. And in fact, my old Ford Festiva had a former life as a taxi, with a meter and everything. In my current outside-NASA life I'm the proud tender of a sizable garden — ten fruit trees and growing!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming conferences...

- Nov. 27-28: **SpaceCom**, Houston, TX
- Dec. 10-14: **American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting**, Washington, D.C.
- Jan. 6-10: **233rd Meeting of the American Astronomical Society**, Seattle, WA



Have ideas or feedback for the Flight Opportunities newsletter?

Drop us a line at: NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov

STAY CONNECTED:



NASA Flight Opportunities Program

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