Science Mission Directorate Rideshare Office (SRO)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



- SMD Rideshare Policy enables rideshare or launch accommodation opportunities using an ESPA-type ring integrated on the launch service procured for an SMD primary payload with identified excess performance.
 - SPD-32 Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) Secondary Payload Adapter (ESPA) Secondary Payloads Rideshare
 - Baseline policy signed Oct. 2018; Policy updated January 2021 (Rev 2)
 - SMD may offer any excess capacity not utilized for SMD investigations to other NASA Mission Directorates (MD), other U.S. Government Agencies, or NASA's International partners in accordance with international agreements for international collaborative efforts relating to science, technology, and exploration goals.

- SMD Rideshare Office (SRO) was established in 2020 to implement the SMD rideshare policy and develop standard rideshare processes for the SMD Directorate.
 - Goal: To provide a single POC for SMD
 Rideshare-related inquiries for both NASA Center
 and external partners; to maintain overall
 knowledge and tracking of Rideshare activities for
 SMD missions, and to ensure best utilization of
 excess LV performance to obtain maximum
 science on SMD missions
 - Developing a robust rideshare program to utilize excess mass to orbit and enable additional launch opportunities for the science community

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SRO Activities/Future Plans.

- Standardizing solicitation language and reviewing each Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for consistency
- Developing key documents: SMD RS101, SMD RUG & DNH requirements, & the SMD RS Implementation Plan
- Performing top-level payload compatibility analyses of rideshare missions to identify potential impacts to the primary payload or the success of the secondaries
- Maintaining a list of SMD launch opportunities and tracking potential external launch opportunities
 - External information is made available on the Small Spacecraft Systems Virtual Institute (S3VI) website.

