



## July 2017 Newsletter

### Upcoming Deadlines & Events:

#### Upcoming Conferences

- **December 11-15: [2017 AGU Fall Meeting](#), New Orleans, LA**
- August 6-11: [14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society](#), Singapore
- August 15-17: [12<sup>th</sup> Low-Cost Planetary Missions Conference](#), Pasadena, CA
- August 15-18: [Accretion: Building New Worlds Conference](#), Houston, TX
- September 6-7: [OPAG Annual Meeting](#), La Jolla, CA
- September 17-22: [European Planetary Science Congress 2017](#), Riga, Latvia
- October 2-6: [4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Early Mars](#), Flagstaff, AZ
- October 10-12: [Annual Meeting of the Lunar Exploration Analysis Group \(LEAG\)](#), Columbia, MD
- October 15-20: [49<sup>th</sup> Annual DPS Meeting](#), Provo, UT
- October 22-25: [2017 GSA Annual Meeting](#), Seattle, WA
- November 13-17: [Habitable Worlds 2017](#), Laramie, WY
- November 14-16: [VEXAG Annual Meeting](#), Laurel, MD
- November 26-December 1: [IAU Astrobiology 2017 Conference](#), Coyhaique, Chile

### Planetary Science Notices

- **Planetary and Space Sciences in Africa**

Recently, [Eos](#) published a [call to endorse the Africa Initiative for Planetary and Space Sciences](#), and I would like to invite you to support the current efforts of groups of planetary and space scientists in Africa.

We are looking for collaborators who are willing to be involved in the next stages of this initiative. Therefore, please consider the call if:

- you are an African student who is interested in gaining a research experience (MSc or PhD) in Planetary or Space Sciences (PSS).
- you are a young or senior researcher with expertise in PSS and you are interested in giving lectures in Africa, in outreach activities, or in co-supervising African students in PSS topics.

- you are an Africa-based researcher who is willing to start, develop or strengthen a PSS activity in your laboratory
- you are interested in participating in a large pan-African network of PSS scientists
- you are willing to be a sponsor or partner of this project, either personally or as an institution.

Once you have signed the call [here](#), you will receive regular information about the development of the initiative and related opportunities for collaborative research with African partners, education and capacity building.

And thanks for those who already signed the endorsement!

With best regards,

David Baratoux

PS: links

[africapss.org](http://africapss.org)

<https://eos.org/opinions/africa-initiative-for-planetary-and-space-sciences>

- **Next Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG) meeting**

The next OPAG meeting will be September 6-7, 2017, in La Jolla, CA, hosted by Scripps Institute of Oceanography. See <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/>.

- **NASA and Science-Related Appropriations Bill from US House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Other Related Agencies**

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** – NASA is funded at \$19.9 billion, \$219 million above the 2017 enacted level (and \$800 million above President’s Budget Request [PBR]). This funding includes:

- \$4.6 billion for Exploration – \$226 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level (\$500 million above PBR). This includes funding to continue the development of the Orion crew vehicle and Space Launch System and related ground systems.
- \$5.9 billion for NASA Science programs – \$94 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level (\$150 million above PBR). This targets funding to planetary science and astrophysics to ensure the continuation of critical research and development programs, while reducing funding for lower-priority research.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)** – The legislation funds NSF at \$7.3 billion – \$133 million below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Research and Related Activities are funded at the current level of \$6 billion. These funds will foster innovation and U.S. economic competitiveness, including funding for research on advanced manufacturing, physics, mathematics, cybersecurity, neuroscience, and STEM education.

**Other provisions:**

- JWST cost-capped at \$8 billion (if breached, Congress must independently authorize the program to continue)
- \$495 million for Europa Clipper and Lander, “as outlined in the most recent planetary science decadal survey”

- SLS must be used as a launch vehicle for both Europa orbiter (no later than 2022) and Europa lander (no later than 2024)
- NASA must submit, during the next budget cycle, a 5-year budget profile that includes SLS and Orion that meets an EM-2 launch date no later than 2021
- Education is back in with \$90 million aimed at National Space Grant College program and the “Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research”
- No language on Earth Science or anything breaking out the SMD budget beyond the topline and Europa set-aside
- Prohibits NASA and the Office of Science and Technology Policy engaging in bilateral activities with China unless authorized or certified via procedures established in the bill;

[Bill Homepage](#)

[Bill Text](#)

- **ESA Research Fellowships in Space Science**

The European Space Agency awards several postdoctoral fellowships each year. The aim of these fellowships is to provide young scientists, holding a PhD or the equivalent degree, with the means of performing space science research in fields related to the ESA Science Programmes.

Areas of research include planetary science, astronomy and astrophysics, solar and solar-terrestrial science, plasma physics and fundamental physics. The fellowships have a duration of two years, with the possible extension to three years, and are tenable at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, Netherlands, or at the European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC) in Villafranca del Castillo, near Madrid, Spain.

Applications are now solicited for fellowships in space science to begin in the fall of 2018. Preference will be given to applications submitted by candidates within five years of receiving their PhD. Candidates not holding a PhD yet are encouraged to apply, but they must provide evidence of receiving their degree before starting the fellowship.

ESA fellows are enrolled in ESA's Social Security Scheme, which covers medical expenses. A monthly deduction covers these short-term and long-term risks.

The deadline for applications is 2 October 2017.

More information on the ESA Research Fellowship programme in Space Science, on the conditions and eligibility, as well as the application form can be retrieved from <http://cosmos.esa.int/fellowship>

Questions on the scientific aspects of the ESA Fellowship in Space Science not answered in the above pages can be sent by e-mail to the fellowship coordinators, Dr. Oliver Jennrich or Dr. Bruno Altieri at the address [fellowship@cosmos.esa.int](mailto:fellowship@cosmos.esa.int)

- **Planetary Exploration Newsletter Invitation**

Dear Colleagues,

You are invited to subscribe to and participate in the Planetary Exploration Newsletter (PEN), now in its eleventh year. PEN is a free weekly electronic newsletter, provided as a service by the Planetary Science Institute, for planetary scientists around the world to communicate with each other. The editors are volunteers. PEN contains meeting announcements, job announcements, and your submissions of news regarding or impacting solar system exploration, upcoming mission events, awards, policy issues, as well as editorials, commentary and memorials, and planetary-related commercial announcements. PEN also includes announcements of PDS data releases and ROSES programs and special messages to the planetary community from NASA leadership.

The PEN Meeting Calendar (<http://planetarynews.org/meetings.html>) strives to be the most exhaustive listing of planetary-related meetings, conferences and workshops around the world. Send the title, dates, location and URL to pen\_editor at psi.edu.

Go to <http://planetarynews.org> to subscribe to future mailings, read current and past newsletters, and see guidelines for submitting content. There is no charge.

Your PEN Editors,

Mark V. Sykes, Karen R. Stockstill-Cahill, Elisabeth Adams (Planetary Science Institute)

- **Future Kuiper Belt Missions Community Group Sign-up**

If you are interested in joining a community group to study and support future NASA missions to explore objects in the Kuiper Belt, including, as one possibility, a potential return to Pluto, please fill out the web-form here: [http://bit.ly/F\\_KBO\\_list](http://bit.ly/F_KBO_list).

Sincerely,

Jason Hofgartner, Renu Malhotra, Bill McKinnon, Cathy Olkin, Silvia Protopapa, Kelsi Singer, Alan Stern, and Mark Sykes

- **Discovery “2018” potential concepts at JPL**

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory invites principal investigator candidates for the next Discovery opportunity (AO expected in fall 2018), including PIs from NASA centers, to explore possibilities for collaboration with JPL. Please describe your interest to Dr. Christophe Sotin, Chief Scientist, JPL Solar System Exploration Directorate, [Christophe.Sotin@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Christophe.Sotin@jpl.nasa.gov), no later than September 10, 2017.

## FYIs

- PUBLISH YOUR NOTICE IN THE AGU PLANETARY SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

With a membership of over 6500 planetary scientists worldwide, your announcements and notices in the AGU Planetary Sciences newsletter will reach a wide range of professionals and students in precisely the areas in which you should advertise. If you have any job postings, conference announcements or other planetary-related material, please send it to [michael.a.mischna@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:michael.a.mischna@jpl.nasa.gov) to be included in a future newsletter.