Opportunity for IPA/Detailee Program Scientist Positions in NASA Headquarter's Heliophysics Division

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has an immediate need for up to approximately two scientists with expertise within the Heliophysics Division science portfolio to serve on assignment as Program Scientists under the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Mobility Program or through a detail assignment (for current Regular Government Employees).

Under authority granted to NASA in the NASA Flexibility Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-201, 118 Stat. 461 (5 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.)), the initial IPA appointment will be for up to two years, with the possibility of reappointment up to a total of six years. The Intergovernmental Personnel Act provides for the temporary assignment of personnel between the Federal Government and state and local governments, colleges and universities, Indian tribal governments, federally funded research and development centers, and other eligible organizations; all applicants must be from an IPA-eligible organization. A detail assignment would use the same appointment length as the IPA assignment, as negotiated between NASA and the individual's home agency.

An individual in this position:

- Plans, directs, and leads the integration of cross-functional scientific programs in various technical disciplines.
- Implements balanced programs across the breadth of a science portfolio within technological, scientific, budgetary, and programmatic constraints.
- Oversees and manages flight projects across the breadth of a science portfolio to enable scientific mission success within budgetary and programmatic constraints.
- Oversees research and analysis programs, including
    - developing proposal solicitations;
    - implementing the review of submitted proposals;
    - developing recommendations to management for selections that integrate proposal review and programmatic considerations; and
    - initiating and monitoring research contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.
- Provides innovative and implementable solutions that are strategic and tactical, and in alignment with the priorities of NASA and the nation.
- Communicates, engages, and builds consensus with multiple stakeholders, including the scientific community, external advisory committees, senior NASA leaders, interagency and international partners, and programs and projects at NASA Centers.
- Manages multiple and competing responsibilities using effective time management and organizational skills.
- Actively promotes diversity and inclusiveness, within NASA appointed teams and committees, and within the science community.

An individual in this position will execute duties both common to the Program Scientist role and particular to specific assignments. NASA encourages applicants to envision potential duties of interest beyond common Program Scientist activities. Additionally, NASA has identified the following activities and projects as possible opportunities for IPA/detail Program Scientist involvement:

- Living With a Star Science, management of Focused Science Teams/Topics
- Space Weather Program, integrating heliophysics science into the Artemis Program
- Division guidelines/implementation plans for the community's use (e.g., data archiving, Student Collaborations, Citizen Science, IDEA plans)
- Cross-Divisional (within SMD) activities, development of new opportunities

- Interagency/international collaborations, development of new opportunities
- Coordination of Division working groups (e.g., response to external strategic input, internal strategic planning)
- Community interactions (e.g., NASA-grantee communications, IDEA/workforce considerations)

Applicant Eligibility

Not every employee of a non-Federal entity is eligible to participate in the IPA program. The following lists indicate which employees of non-Federal entities are eligible and which are not eligible to participate in the IPA program:

Eligible:

- Employees of non-Federal entities, provided that they occupy a career position and have been with the entity for at least 90 days.
- If an employee changes from one non-Federal entity to another, they do not have to begin a new 90-day period provided that both organizations are eligible to participate in the IPA program.
- Since non-Federal entities do not always use the precise terms that are used in the Federal Government, it is important to examine the actual situation. For example, a university professor may not be called permanent, but may have worked at an institution for many years and is expected to continue working there. In such a case, the individual would be eligible to participate.

Not Eligible:

- Students employed at institutions of higher education in research, graduate, or teaching assistant positions.
- Elected officials of state and local governments.

It is preferable but not required for applicants to have at least 6 years of post-Ph.D. experience. The ideal candidate will be skilled at working in a collaborative team environment; will be able to adapt to work simultaneously on numerous programs and projects; and will be able to foster productive relationships with staff working on the space flight projects they oversee, and with the US heliophysics community at large.

Disciplinary expertise in one or more areas of heliophysics is essential, but the ability to place this knowledge in the broader context of space science is equally important for the success of the Division's programs. Additionally, NASA has identified the following disciplinary and technical expertise as desirable (but not required) in applicants:

- Disciplinary domains:
    - All heliophysics science sub-disciplines
    - Fundamental plasma physics (e.g., turbulence)
    - Space weather applications (esp. in Lunar and/or Martian environments)
- Technical domains:
    - Model development
    - Laboratory experimentation
    - Flight instrument development

NASA is open to both on-site (Washington, D.C.) and remote work arrangements. On-site workers will be offered regular travel back to their home institutions. Remote workers will be required to regularly travel to Washington, D.C.

Conflicts of interest

Duties and responsibilities to be performed for NASA must take into account possible conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of the assignee's continued employment at his or her home institution. Before selection of an assignee, SMD will consider the particular matters on which the assignee would work, the interest of the assignee's home institution in those matters, and how the assignee's participation may affect the home institution's interest. SMD will also consider whether the applicant is involved in any outside activities that may create additional conflicts. These conflicts of interest arise as part of the Program Scientist's role in the proposal review process, space flight project lifecycle reviews, and policy implementations that may affect future procurements.

Additionally, assignees will not communicate on NASA's behalf with their home institution, continue to work on matters for their home institution, or represent their home institution or other third party to NASA or any other federal agency. Part-time IPAs may present unique conflict and representational concerns given their continued work with their home institution.

Questions and Applications

This announcement text and any updates will be posted at: https://science.nasa.gov/about-us/job-opportunities.

Questions about this position are directed to Therese Moretto Jorgensen (therese.m.jorgensen@nasa.gov) and Patrick Koehn (patrick.l.koehn@nasa.gov).

Application packages are required to be emailed to Amy Marshall (amy.m.marshall@nasa.gov) by October 30, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. US Eastern Daylight Time, with the email subject line of "Heliophysics Program Scientist Application." Packages must be a single PDF file that includes only 1) a cover letter (not to exceed one page), and 2) a resume/curriculum vitae (not to exceed five pages). A strong cover letter is one that summarizes the applicant's reason for interest in and demonstrated capabilities for the position, and the Program Scientist activities or projects that most interest the applicant.