

**PSS Telecon - Findings**  
**Nov 21, 2014**

**1.Finding: Establish formal representation for planetary cartography and geological mapping on PSS.**

Reinforcing a previous finding from our September meeting, the PSS again suggests that the cross-disciplinary Cartography program would benefit greatly from additional long-term monitoring and planning activities by the planetary science community. To address this need, a dedicated Analysis Group should be established with membership from the USGS Cartography program, the Planetary Cartography and Geologic Mapping Working Group (PCGMWG – a review panel that meets annually to review the USGS cartography program), the Geologic Mapping Subcommittee of the PCGMWG, and the science community engaged in cartographic research and development using planetary science data. This interdisciplinary CPAG (Cartography Program Analysis Group) should meet several times annually and should report regularly to the PSS, as do the other PSD AGs.

**2.Finding: Establish metrics and guidelines for applying programmatic balance to selection decisions in the R&A program.**

This is the first year of implementation of the new R&A program. A stated goal has been to achieve programmatic balance, yet the process by which this will be achieved and verified is not in place. This is especially a concern for the new Solar System Workings and Emerging Worlds programs, which assimilated several smaller programs. We suggest that this process be developed (possibly via proposal key words) and shared with the planetary community. We further urge that the metrics and statistics be provided for every year for the recent past and going forward into the future.

**3.Finding: Make information available on the results (redacted as necessary) of the RFI for the \$1B Europa mission.**

In the past year PSD was tasked with investigating the possibility of a viable Europa mission -satisfying significant Decadal Survey goals- for \$1B, and in response let out an RFI for inputs/studies. The conclusion of that effort has been reported to be negative. However the community would benefit from information from PSD on the outcome and insights gained. (Note we assume those responding have been debriefed already). Distribution of a summary via AGs or community newsletters would allow those engaged in Europa mission advocacy and planning to move forward more effectively.

**4.Finding: Review and update the charters for the joint HEOMD/SMD assessment groups (LEAG, SBAG, MEPAG).**

The charters for LEAG, SBAG, and MEPAG (“AGs”) should be confirmed by HEOMD and SMD, as the AGs can currently be tasked by both mission directorates to undertake analyses/assessments. The charters should, therefore, allow SMD and HEOMD to independently task these AGs, but with consistent rules of operation. In addition, any changes to the manner in which LEAG, SBAG, and MEPAG are run should be coordinated by both HEOMD and SMD.

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**5.Finding: Provide guidance regarding possibilities of responding to foreign mission opportunities.**

The Planetary Science Division plans and procedures for opportunities to participate in foreign missions need to be more widely shared in an expeditious manner. In addition to regular planetary science conferences, AG meetings and PSS meetings can serve as platforms for discussing details of how U.S. scientists can contribute, together with plans and issues related to those contributions. We urge the PSD to make more use of both the PSS and AGs to advertise opportunities and to obtain community feedback, as well as to generate ideas for possible vehicles for such participation. This will help maximize the increasingly important foreign mission opportunities for the planetary science community.

**6.Acknowledgement:** The PSS commends the comprehensive and collaborative effort across SMD to make observations of Comet Siding Spring before, during and after its closest approach to Mars.