

Planned Changes to Roman Technology Fellowship Program

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Overview of Current RTF Program

- Two step procurement consisting of two peer review panels per cycle
 - Nine-month Concept Phase leading to a “down-select” review
 - Four-year Development Phase

- “Start-up Funds” incentive available to non-tenure-track Fellows who move into a permanent-track position
 - Develop a lab or research group
 - Provides leverage for career advancement

Motivation for Change

- The number of RTF proposals submitted has continually declined since inception of the program
 - From 18 in 2011 to only 5 in 2015
- Burden for proposers, reviewers, and administrative costs are high relative to the number of awards
 - Average of 1 Development Phase award per year since inception

Planned New RTF Process

- Early career program similar to Planetary Science Division's (PSD) Early Career Fellowship (ECF) program
 - Applied only to APRA/SAT because RTF is a Technology program
- The fellowship may be awarded only to early-career candidates selected for an APRA/SAT award (enabling event)
- The fellowship award is not automatic upon APRA/SAT award
 - Based on a peer-reviewed application and programmatic considerations similar to those in the current RTF
- Fellows may propose for Fellowship Funds to start a lab or research group
 - Upon holding a “permanent-track” position
 - Fellowship Funds are independent of APRA/SAT award
 - Fellowship Funds proposals are peer reviewed
 - Proposal must be submitted prior to 10 years from PhD

Request APS Input on Planned Changes

Details of the planned changes are given in the white paper distributed at this meeting.

The Astrophysics Subcommittee is asked to consider these planned changes to the Roman Technology Fellowship Program, and provide feedback to the Director of Astrophysics at its October 2016 meeting.

Back Up Slides

RTF Historical Data

	Phase-1 Proposals Received	Phase-1 Proposals Selected	Phase-2 Proposals Selected	Total Amount Awarded
RTF11	19	3	2	\$2,715k
RTF12	12	2	1	\$1,412k
RTF13	Not offered			
RTF14	8	3	2	\$2,073k
RTF15	5	3	TBD	\$300k