

NASA Response to the 2014 Senior Review for Astrophysics Operating Missions  
Supplemental decision: Spitzer  
August 6, 2014

Paul Hertz  
Director, Astrophysics Division  
Science Mission Directorate

Following the Senior Review, and based on the report of the Senior Review Panel, the Astrophysics Division determined that there were insufficient funds available within the senior review wedge to extend the Spitzer mission as well as to continue all of the higher rated missions. At that time in May, the Spitzer project and the community were informed that the Spitzer mission was not extended beyond fiscal year 2014 (FY14). However, the Spitzer project was offered the opportunity to submit a reclama with a request for a budget augmentation to conduct continued operations with reduced operations costs. The Spitzer project response requesting a budget augmentation was considered during NASA's normal budget formulation process. See the 2014 NASA Response to Senior Review at <http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/2014-senior-review-operating-missions/>.

In July, the Science Mission Directorate made the decision to extend Spitzer operations for the next two years. The Spitzer observatory is an important resource for on-going infrared observations for research programs across the Science Mission Directorate, and, subject to the availability of Congressional appropriations in FY15, it will be continued. On July 16, the Spitzer project was directed to continue planning for operations in FY15 and FY16.

Both the Astrophysics and the Planetary Science Divisions have requested observing time commitments for FY15, and both Divisions have committed funding to support their observations. Planetary science proposals will be submitted, reviewed, and selected in accordance with current Spitzer proposal practice. The total time to be allocated to solar system observations is to be established through the normal telescope allocation process. Use of Spitzer for asteroid characterization will continue to be handled programmatically through the use of Director's discretionary time.

The funding allocations will be determined through the appropriation and operating plan process. The bulk of the funding comes from Astrophysics. The funding split between the Astrophysics and Planetary will not be known until NASA has received a FY15 appropriation and, separately, determined the FY15 Spitzer observing plan in response to observing proposals.