

Physics of the Cosmos
Program Analysis Group:
Status Report

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APS Telecon – 19 November 2013

Charter (Terms of Reference)

- PhysPAG is responsible for soliciting and coordinating community input in the development and execution of NASA's Physics of the Cosmos (PCOS) Program
- PhysPAG serves as a community-based forum for analysis in support of PCOS objectives, architecture planning, and activity prioritization.
- PhysPAG formally presents findings of its analyses to NASA SMD through the NASA Advisory Council (NAC).

- The Chair of the PhysPAG is drawn from the membership of the NAC Astrophysics Subcommittee
- The PhysPAG Chair is assisted by an Executive Committee that supports planning and activities of the group

- Executive Committee:
 - Jason Rhodes, JPL
 - Shaul Hanany, Univ. of Minnesota
 - Jay Bookbinder, Harvard-Smithsonian
 - Liz Hays, GSFC
 - Guido Mueller, Univ. of Florida
 - Angela Olinto, Univ. of Chicago

Program Objectives and Drivers

Purpose



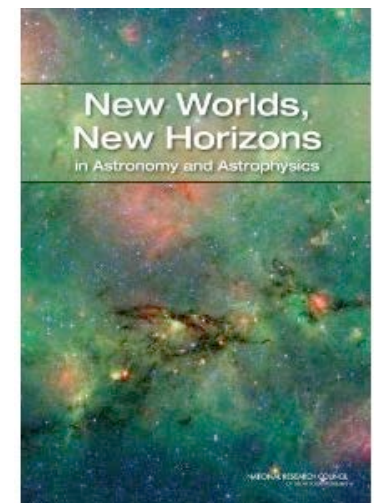
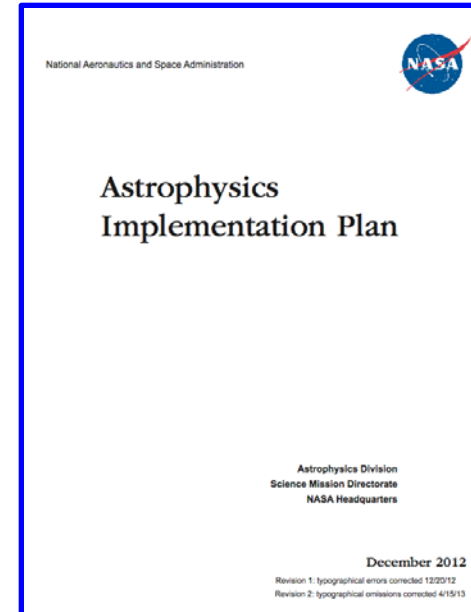
PCOS/COR Program Overview

Prepared by:

PCOS & COR Program Office

Physics of the Cosmos (PCOS): Scientific and Technical Stewardship for future missions

- Provide scientific and technical stewardship for decadal-survey recommended missions within the framework of the Astrophysics Implementation Plan:
 - Of the six highly-ranked large and medium space-based priorities in NWNH, THREE fall within the PCOS science program:
 - LISA
 - IXO
 - Inflation Probe (medium-scale)
 - NOTE: WFIRST is located within the Exoplanet Program and the science of dark energy is within PCOS



PhysPAG Town Hall at AAS

- PhysPAG has worked with AAS to conduct a splinter group meeting at AAS
 - Held on Sunday, 5 Jan 2014
 - Note: Due to space limitations meeting will occur at Hampton Inn and not Gaylord Resort (location of main AAS meeting)
- In morning SIGs (XRSIG and GammaSIG) will hold open meetings
- Paul Hertz (Astrophysics Div. Director) will address all three PAGs (PhysPAG, COPAG & ExoPAG)
- Agenda is under development, but is expected to include these issues:
 - Reports from SIGs
 - Discussion of the PCOS Technology Needs priorities
 - Discussion of rotation of members on the SIGs
 - Discussion of schedule of PhysPAG activities for 2014 (i.e. plan for meetings)

Late Breaking Rumors

- *Nature* reports that the Director of ESA has recommended two science themes (hot Universe for L2 and gravitational Universe for L3)
- ESA is expected to select L2 & L3 following this recommendation at their next meeting in two weeks
- Paul Hertz (Astrophysics Div. Director) has stated the desire to have US collaboration with ESA, subject to mutual agreement, and subject to ESA's conditions:
 - Maximum of 15% of total mission cost from US contributions
 - No mission critical systems supplied from non-ESA sources
- Jay Bookbinder (XRSIG) is conducting outreach to collect input on possible US contributions to an ESA-led Athena+ mission
- Guido Mueller (GWSIG) has started a discussion on how to proceed in the GW area