

## Planetary Science Division No Due Date (NoDD) FAQ

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Prior to reading this FAQ, proposers to Planetary Science Division (PSD) NoDD programs are encouraged to read Sections 2.4 and 3.2 of [C.1 the Planetary Science Division Research Overview for ROSES-2023](#). A NoDD web page, with further information, is available at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/NoDD>.

### General Questions

Q1: What is the timeline for the NoDD approach to expand to other PSD ROSES programs?

A1: There are no immediate plans for expanding NoDD beyond the seven current NoDD programs.

Q2: Do NoDD programs use dual anonymous review (DAPR)?

A2: After a successful 3-year pilot program implementing NoDD (ROSES-2021-2022-2023), PSD will consider incorporating new elements, such as DAPR, into NoDD programs. At this time, NoDD programs do not use DAPR.

Q3: How will amendments to these program elements work?

A3: If non-trivial changes are made to a NoDD program, then we will specify that those changes will take effect at some point in the future, giving proposers the opportunity to submit sooner under the current rules or later under the new rules. The bigger the change, the longer the delay before it will take effect. Every proposal will be reviewed on the basis of the rules in effect at the time of submission for the program they are submitting to. Potential proposers should subscribe to Planetary Science email announcements in NSPIRES to receive alerts about changes of this type.

Q4: Do all proposals submitted to NoDD programs get reviewed by peer-review panels?

A4: All NoDD programs use a triage system prior to panel discussions of proposals. Only proposals with pre-panel review scores above a threshold value are discussed by panels. See [ROSES-2023 C.1](#), Section 3.16 for more information.

Q5: How does do I request funding for major equipment in NoDD programs?

A5: The process for requesting major equipment changed in ROSES-2022. These changes apply to all PSD programs, including NoDD solicitations. NoDD proposals may include requests for the purchase or upgrade of instrumentation needed to perform the work. Refer to [ROSES-2023 C.1](#), Section 3.11, for instructions on how to include an instrument request in your proposal and to learn about the availability of funding for such requests.

## Metrics

Q6: What are the expected metrics of success for NoDD?

A6: The top priority for NoDD is the continued selection of high-quality science, but in the absence of an objective measure of “quality” this assessment will necessarily be subjective. At the beginning of the NoDD experiment, the primary objective metric was the temporal distribution of proposal submissions; the goal was to spread submissions across the year. This shift in distribution has already been seen. The secondary metric was proposal pressure. While NoDD was and is not intended to reduce the number of proposals submitted, a drop in proposal pressure is beneficial by reducing the overall proposal review burden for the community. NoDD has no impact on the amount of funding available for R&A or on the number of selections made. One additional evaluation metric has been added for NoDD, and that is the time to notification for proposers; the target is for 80% of all proposers to be notified in 180 days or less.

Q7: Are there potential consequences, either positive or negative, of NoDD on inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility?

A7: As NoDD proceeds, we will analyze and monitor demographic data of both proposers and of proposing institutions to look for possible impacts on the proposing community. Data from NSF no-due-date programs is suggestive that impacts will be small and potentially positive (see backup slides in [this town hall presentation](#)). As of this time, available demographic data for NoDD submissions is consistent with demographic data for non-NoDD programs.

## Proposals

Q8: Is there a Step-1 or Notice of Intent (NOI) for these programs?

A8: There is no Step-1 or NOIs for NoDD programs.

Q9: Under NoDD, what is the restriction on usage of publicly archived data in proposals?

A9: All proposals submitted to NoDD programs must adhere to the restriction that both data and samples must be publicly available 30 days prior to the submission date of the proposal. See [ROSES-2023 C.1](#), Section 3.5 for more information.

Q10: Are there restrictions on resubmitting proposals to NoDD programs? Can I resubmit a declined proposal to a program different than the one that declined the original proposal?

A10: There is a 12-month moratorium on resubmission of proposals to any NoDD program, when that proposal was declined previously by any program covered by ROSES Appendix C.1. Resubmissions to NoDD programs can only occur once a full year has passed since the date of the previous submission. See [ROSES-2023 C.1](#), Section 3.2, for details of what constitutes a resubmitted proposal. One additional restriction is that a proposal may not be submitted to two different programs covered by C.1, including NoDD programs, in the same

ROSES year. Please look at the text of C.1 for clarification on what is considered a resubmitted proposal.

Q11: Can I submit more than one proposal to a single call in one ROSES year?

A11: Yes, if you don't violate the rules in [ROSES-2023 C.1](#) on duplicate proposals and resubmissions, you may submit as many proposals as you like.

Q12: There is a period of time where the NoDD programs are open in two different ROSES years at once. This typically occurs between Feb. 14 and Mar. 29. Which one should I submit to, what rules apply, and how does this choice affect when my proposal may get reviewed or funded?

A12: It is generally up to you which ROSES year you apply to for a particular program during the overlap period; this choice will **NOT** affect when your proposal is reviewed or funded or its selection. However, if you are resubmitting a proposal that was declined in the earlier ROSES year, you should submit the revised proposal in the later ROSES year.

Each proposal should follow the rules for the ROSES year to which the proposal was submitted: a proposal submitted to ROSES-2023 is subject to the rules in the ROSES-2023 Summary of Solicitation, [ROSES-2023 C.1](#), and the individual program element in ROSES-2023 (in order of precedence from lowest to highest). These rules may differ from year to year. When possible, during the overlap period, proposers are advised to start the preparation of new proposals in the later ROSES year, as any proposals left unsubmitted in the older ROSES year will no longer be accessible after the closing date (typically around Mar. 29) and would have to be started from scratch in the newer ROSES year before they can be submitted.

## Proposal Evaluation and Selection

Q13: How often will panels be conducted?

A13: Panels will be convened as often as necessary to provide timely feedback on proposals. Larger programs may be able to anticipate proposal pressure sufficiently to conduct panels on a fairly regular cadence, whereas smaller programs may use a more ad hoc approach to panel scheduling.

Q14: How will "default" deadlines for people in the know be avoided? This could easily give advantage to people "in the know", which is detrimental for inclusivity.

A14: NoDD has no deadlines- real, implied, or inferred. With reviews spread across the year, and with the individual program budgets spread across the year, there is no advantage to be gained by knowing when a panel might meet.

Q15: With proposals spread throughout a year, rather than being held all at once, how will you ensure that the evaluation criteria will be applied uniformly? How will the "best" proposal be determined if the set is submitted at a range of times? Might there be a bias of

selection rate either later or earlier in the year (even if the quality of proposals was approximately uniform)?

A15: Following federal guidelines, we do not "compare" proposals. Proposals are graded on their individual merit. We maximize consistency across review panels by providing clear and uniform sets of instructions during each panel and we "level" across panels through panel debriefs at the end of each review. In addition, program officers read panel summaries to validate panel outcomes. This will continue to be true for both NoDD programs and for programs with due dates.

We will manage budgets across the year and make use of the "Selectable" status to maintain an (approximately) constant selection rate. The budget available for R&A programs is unaffected by the introduction of NoDD.

Q16: What is the expected timeline for reviewing proposals and returning a decision for a submitted proposal?

A16: Our original goal was to have an average time to notification of 150 days or fewer and a maximum time of 225 days or fewer. We have revised this goal to have 80% of all proposers notified within 180 days. Just as now, proposals that are deemed "Selectable" will be notified at the same time as proposals Selected and Declined. If in the "Selectable" category, a final decision will be made within 6 months, but could be shorter depending on the program.

Q17: How will smaller fields of research vs. topics that receive more proposals get reviewed when spread out over the year?

A17: For areas where a small number of proposals are received, we may delay review of those proposals in order to ensure more "similar" proposals get reviewed together, while still aiming to meet the notification schedule stated just above.

Q18: Does the NoDD model rely on virtual panels?

A18: Yes

Q19: How are Conflicts of Interest handled in NoDD programs?

A19: If you are a PI (or Science PI) on a pending proposal to Program X, you cannot serve as a panel member for the same program. Once a final decision has been made on your proposal, you can again serve on panels for this program after the passage of a period of time known as a "conflict avoidance" period. Conflicts for Co-Is on pending proposals will be handled as they are for programs with due dates and in accordance with NASA policy.

Q20: Could you be a member of a panel for a different call if you have a proposal under consideration elsewhere? Does the moratorium period on submission after panel service only apply to that program or all programs?

A20: Each program will have its own panel(s); you may serve on the panel for any program to which you do not have a proposal currently under consideration. The "conflict avoidance"

period will only apply to the specific program on which a person has a proposal under consideration.

Q21: Will NoDD programs be using the "Selectable" category to preserve "waterline" proposals for later consideration later?

A21: We anticipate using the "Selectable" category more liberally under NoDD, primarily to buffer selections to match a smooth budget drawdown. As with other programs, the "Selectable" status may also be used for proposals that might be fundable should additional budget become available.

Q22: How frequently will submission/selection statistics be made available?

A22: Any time selections are made, abstracts will be posted to NSPIRES (as is done for all programs). At the end of each ROSES year, statistics will reflect the aggregate results of the entire ROSES year.

Q23: How will selections be made, given that programs run with an annual budget? Will a smooth draw-down process mean that proposals with large budgets have lower chance of selection?

A23: Selections will be made following the same process that is used for due date programs. Panel scores are a major factor in making selections, but other programmatic factors (e.g., available budget, scientific balance, etc.) are also considerations. The budget drawdown for individual programs will ideally be smooth over time; a large proposal might end up in the "Selectable" pool for a short amount of time to ensure that selections match the available budget, but this would be true regardless of when that proposal is submitted.

Q24: How will NoDD work in the event of a long continuing resolution (or shutdown), when future funding levels are not clear?

A24: By spreading the funding for programs more evenly across the fiscal year, NoDD provides better budget control during long continuing resolutions. A final budget that is substantially different from expectations could change funding levels for individual programs, but with NoDD, the effects of those changes would be spread out over a full year, reducing the overall impact. This is an advantage of NoDD when compared to programs with due dates, where the timing of program selections relative to the determination of the final budget can have significant effects.

Q25: How do reconsideration requests get handled under NoDD? Are there any major differences from non-NoDD programs?

A25: There are no major changes to the debrief and reconsideration process under NoDD.

Q26: With the uncertainty of proposal timelines with NoDD, will NoDD lead to a decrease in funded proposals and overall funding?

A26: Funding for R&A programs is not in any way tied to proposal timelines and will not change due to NoDD.

Q27: Does NoDD affect the proposed start dates for proposals?

A27: Individual programs make recommendations in their respective Appendix; in general, requested start dates should be 6 and 12 months after the date of submission.

For questions about specific program elements with No Due Date (C.2 Emerging Worlds, C.3 Solar System Workings, C.4 Planetary Data Archiving and Restoration and Tools, C.5 Exobiology, C.6 Solar System Observations, C.12 Planetary Instrument Concepts for the Advancement of Solar System Observations, and C.16 Laboratory Analysis of Returned Samples), please email the point of contact in the summary table of key information at the bottom of the program element and [on the program officer list](#).

For general questions regarding NoDD, please write to [Stephen Rinehart](#) and cc [sara@nasa.gov](mailto:sara@nasa.gov).