

Questions posed during the Earth Science Division Community Forum that were not answered during the forum

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Questions are roughly grouped by topic and the name of the person who responded to each is in bold before the answer.

Earth Ventures/ Explorers

-Glenn w (zlonewolf@gmail.com) - 1:07 PM

Q: when will evs selections be announced? next week? next month?

Julie Robinson

A: The announcement will be made very soon, but the process of getting the announcement out when selections are made can take a few weeks.

Q: let me modify my evs question. what is stopping you from announcing the selections?

Julie Robinson

A: Budget uncertainty delayed our announcement from the original schedule.

-Charles Helms (charles.n.helms@nasa.gov) - 1:24 PM

Q: You mentioned that EVS-4 announcements are imminent. I won't ask you to put a specific date on it, but is this a matter of days, weeks, or months? Also, any insights into the number and/or size of selections that we might be able to expect? Thanks in advance!

Julie Robinson

A: The announcement will be made very soon, but the process of getting the announcement out when selections are made can take a few weeks. We can't provide any details until the official announcement.

-Monty (ldibiasi1@comcast.net) - 1:45 PM

Q: If I missed it sorry but what is the status of ESE?

Julie Robinson

A: ESE is progressing and the plan is to make Step 1 selections in April.

Art Charo (acharo@nas.edu) - 1:54 PM

Q: One more on the EVs: I may have missed it, but how will EV-S be affected by the restructuring.

Julie Robinson

A: We kept EVS on its own cadence separate from the missions.

AOS Restructuring

-Kimberly Casey (kimberly.a.casey@nasa.gov) - 1:27 PM

Q: Will EMIT be extended given the delay of SBG-VWIR and constrained budgets?

Julie Robinson

A: EMIT has accommodations confirmed until ISS End of Life. It has funding extended through FY26 when as required by statute, it will be part of the 3-year cycle of the Senior Review.

Responsive Science Initiative /Earth Action

-Kim L (kim.a.locke@nasa.gov) - 1:50 PM

Q: Where will current Applied/Earth Action programs now sit- Water Resources, Health & Air Quality, Climate & Resilience, Ecological Conservation? Are these all now “cross-cutting activities”?

Emily Sylak-Glassman

A: All of the above application areas are within Earth Action. The competed applied research activities that they conduct, are generally not considered cross-cutting activities from a management perspective. The Western Water Applications Office and the Health and Air Quality Applied Sciences teams will move from the “Applications” portion of the “Applied Sciences” program budget to the “Crosscutting Activities” project within the “Responsive Science Initiatives” program budget in FY25. Regardless of where its funding originates, all parts of Earth Action are seeking to build bridges to other parts of the Earth Science Division whenever practical and beneficial.

-Wenonah (wenonah.vercoutere@nasa.gov) - 1:46 PM

Q: what is the integration of science data collection with ARSET?

Emily Sylak-Glassman

A: The remotes sensing trainings conducted by ARSET use many different data sources, depending on the application need. Some focus on satellite data products and others are additionally rely heavily on modeled data. For current and upcoming trainings, please visit <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/what-we-do/capacity-building/arset>

Questions about specific missions

-Pamitha Weerasinghe (Pamitha.Weerasinghe@maxar.com) - 1:38 PM

Q: Hello! Could you clarify the next major milestone for GLIMR? Currently showing Delivery NLT 2024. Is that correct?

Carla Procacino

A: The System Integration Review (SIR) is the next major milestone/life cycle review for GLIMR and is currently planned for 4QFY24.

-mel (melody.djam@nasa.gov) - 1:52 PM

Q: Any justification for Alicat shutdown given low cost profile and high science objective of this instrument?

Julie Robinson

A: With the reduced budget profile available we had to make hard choices because we couldn't afford to do all the good missions that were linked together into the complex AOS architecture.

Data Systems Questions

-Jon Walton (jon.m.walton@jpl.nasa.gov) - 1:22 PM

Q: Are there any plans to revamp Earth data accessibility for the general public (e.g. leveraging AI, data portals with simpler UX/UI, etc.)?

Katie Baynes

A: We are constantly looking at improving accessibility in Data Systems, whether that means increasing our GIS efforts (Earthdata GIS (nasa.gov)), providing updated tools for data access, or working on how we can better serve our new users via avenues such as Earthdata Pathfinders (Data Pathfinders | Earthdata (nasa.gov)) and other tools.

We are also working to engage via our UNBOUND workshops (<https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/esds/esds-program-components/unbound>)-

-Bruce E. Wilson (wilsonbe@ornl.gov) - 1:28 PM

Q: Can you comment on how much of the large apparent cut in ESDS is due to actual programmatic cuts versus budget elements that are no longer part of ESDS?

Katie Baynes

A: The adjustments in ESDS are largely reflective of shifts of two specific programs that have moved to the Responsive Science Initiative: Satellite Needs Working Group and the Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition program. To be clear, Data systems will still be supporting these activities, but the budget will be coming from the RSI efforts.-

Center Specific Questions

-Mel (melody.djam@nasa.gov) - 1:36 PM

Q: what is GSFC position for ESD missions? it seems like GSFC has only Landsat Next - given OSAM and CCRS layoff, how is ESD supporting NASA to avoid layoffs

Julie Robinson

A: Programmatic considerations, including balancing center work are part of decision processes. GSFC has a major role in AOS and ESO that will continue even with the changes under the decouple, partner and compete strategy that is included in this budget request.
