

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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Dear Dr. Bradford:

Astro2010's Program Prioritization Panels (PPPs) have just completed their first meeting, which was largely devoted to discussing the nearly 200 inputs that the Panels have received from the community through the Activity RFI and the Call For White Papers on Technology Development, Theory, Computation, and Laboratory Astrophysics.

As discussed in my previous letter to you, each RFI will be handled in one of the three following ways:

- 1) The panel may conclude that the response provides all the material necessary for the panel to complete its prioritization task, and that no further information is needed from the activity.
- 2) The panel may conclude that some additional information is needed in order to complete its consideration of the activity and will request specific additional written material from the activity team.
- 3) The panel may conclude that enough additional information is needed that the panel would benefit from a discussion with the activity team on specific issues at its next meeting in Pasadena, CA, on June 8-11.¹

This letter/e-mail is to inform you which of the above scenarios applies to "U.S. Participation in the JAXA-led SPICA Mission: The Background-Limited Infrared-Submillimeter Spectrograph (BLISS)" and identify those specific issues that the panel would like to be addressed further.

At this time, the PPP on Electromagnetic Observations from Space requests that you submit written answers to the following questions.

- 1) How much time will be allotted for US scientists on the SPICA mission?
- 2) What is the main goal for the Japanese program on SPICA?
- 3) What is the timeline for a decision on SPICA?
- 4) What is SPICA's proposed organizational structure? What is the proposed US/Japanese interface for SPICA?
- 5) How much observing time is required for the BLISS science goals? How will this be allocated within the SPICA mission?

¹While the June PPP meetings will be held contemporaneously with the June AAS meeting, the PPP meetings are a separate activity. Registration in the AAS meeting is not required in order to attend open sessions of the PPP meetings, and an invitation to a PPP meeting will not provide admittance to the AAS meeting.

- 6) How much, if any, will US astronomers be provided access to the other SPICA instruments?
- 7) How much, if any, will Japanese astronomers be provided access to BLISS?

The PPP on Electromagnetic Observations from Space requests that these responses be submitted via the Astro2010@nas.edu e-mail address by Friday, June 5th.

Additional information may be requested throughout the summer as the PPP continues its deliberations.

As a reminder, **an invitation to present in person at the June PPP meetings does not in any way reflect prioritization decisions** about the activities under consideration by the decadal survey. The Committee on Astro2010 and its panels are committed to identifying and recommending a balanced program across all scales of effort.

If you have any questions about this effort, please consult the FAQ on the Astro2010 website. This FAQ is continually updated as questions arise. If your question is not covered in the FAQ, please send it by e-mail to astro2010@nas.edu.

Thank you for all your efforts thus far.

Very respectfully,

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