

This is a request for your participation in a Review Panel for NASA's Modeling, Analysis, and Prediction Program. (<http://map.nasa.gov/>) The Review Panel Meeting will be held October 21-23, 2008 in the Washington, DC region. NASA will provide funds for travel and meals, and in the case of non-government employees an honorarium. This panel is being convened at a time of turmoil in the U.S. science community, and your participation on the panel will have significant impact on the evolution of the program. NASA will make all efforts to accommodate your participation if you cannot attend the entire panel meeting. This includes teleconferencing. However, one of the purposes of the panel is to develop an integrated program with multi-agency interests. Therefore, full participation in the deliberations is beneficial. If you cannot participate, recommendation of a colleague with a similar expertise base would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Richard B. Rood
University of Michigan

Donald Anderson
NASA Headquarters

William Lapenta
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Details:

The [Modeling, Analysis and Prediction Program](#) at NASA is NASA's primary program in data assimilation and global modeling. Key NASA assets in this program include the [Global Modeling and Assimilation Office](#) at NASA Goddard in Maryland and the climate modeling activities at NASA [GISS](#) in New York. In 2005 all elements of the program were competed, and since that time there has been an effort to develop an integrated program in global modeling and assimilation. This integration, as many of you are aware, has made an effort to reach across agency boundaries.

The Review Panel will review, approximately, 70 proposals. These proposals are anchored around the key NASA assets mentioned above. These 70 proposals are chosen from about 174 submitted proposals and represent the core of the future MAP proposal. Perhaps uniquely, these proposals rise to the challenge of trans-disciplinary and multi-agency investigations.

Each Panel member is expected to have three proposals for which they will have primary responsibility. They will also have three proposals with secondary responsibility. Mail reviews will be available. The basic algorithm is that the person with primary responsibility will present a summary and evaluation of the proposal. The secondary reader will then contribute a supplementary or complementary perspective. The

information from the mail reviews will be integrated by the panel members. Ultimately, the primary reader will be responsible for writing a consensus review, generally about one page in length, which will serve as the review of record for the proposal. The panel will rank the proposals and will verify that they are scientifically sound. These rankings will be provided to the program manager, Don Anderson. Don will form the MAP Program priorities and forward them to the selection official. The Panel does not make selections, but the deliberations and the ranking by the panel have tremendous impact on the selection process.

As mentioned above, this is a time of significant turmoil at NASA and with Earth science in general. This panel, therefore, is of unusual importance. The panel will be asked to identify the essential elements of the program; those which are greatest strategic importance to the community. What are the activities which, looking a couple of years down the road, are those activities that might form a solid core on which to build? Again, this program, strategically, is expected to connect the dots across the community; those issues will be given priority in the Panel's deliberations.

We have put significant effort in identifying potential panel members, considering the required expertise base and conflict of interests. Special attention has been given to attracting researchers outside of the MAP Program's normal community. Candidates at different points in their career have been identified. We appreciate your consideration of this request and hope that you will be able to participate. As stated above, in consideration of the value of your time, we will work to accommodate partial participation if that makes your participation possible.

Finally, in general these panels are an interesting and rewarding experience. The discussions are exploratory, the insight into the review process is useful, and the consequences of the work are tangible and important.

[Titles of the proposals to be reviewed.](#)