

## NASA Members in Athena SST Working Groups

Dear Colleague,

NASA is now soliciting applications and nominations for individuals affiliated with U.S. institutions to participate in the Working Groups which report to the ESA Athena (L2) Science Study Team.

**Background:** In November 2013, ESA selected the "Hot and Energetic Universe" as the theme of the second large mission (L2) in its Cosmic Vision program. The theme is to be addressed by an X-ray Observatory led by ESA, to be launched in 2028. On June 27, 2014 ESA announced that Athena is the mission concept to fulfill this theme (see <http://sci.esa.int/cosmic-vision/54241-athena-to-study-the-hot-and-energetic-universe/>) NASA is working with ESA to define the possible NASA contribution to this ESA-led X-ray mission.

ESA has assembled a Science Study Team (SST) to initiate the required study activities during the Assessment Phase of the Athena concept. The charge for the Athena SST can be found at <http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/athena/study-science-team>. NASA is represented on this SST by Randall Smith of the CfA; Robert Petre (GSFC) and Michael Garcia (HQ) are ex-officio members of the SST. The Athena SST will be advised by a set of Working Groups which are being assembled at this time. The structure of, and Terms of Reference for, these Working Groups can be found at: <http://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/Athena/community-wg>.

NASA anticipates nominating ~1 NASA-nominated and SST-appointed scientist to be a member of each of these ~20 Working Groups and sub-Working Groups. It is possible that some (sub)-Working Groups will not require NASA representation, and that others may have more than one NASA-funded representative. NASA will provide travel funding to (sub)-Working Group meetings for NASA-nominated (sub)-Working Group members. Note that the Telescope Working Group currently has no sub-Group structure; for all other Groups applications are accepted only at the sub-Group level.

The SST may appoint additional US scientists to this Working Group structure who are not nominated by NASA. NASA anticipates endorsing these additional US scientists to be appointed by the SST. NASA will provide no funding for these endorsed but not nominated (sub)-Working Group members.

**Nomination Letters:** Applications and nominations to serve as NASA-nominated and/or NASA-endorsed member of the Athena SST (sub)-Working Groups should consist of a two-page (at most) cover letter including a statement of which specific (sub)-Working Group is being applied for and expertise pertinent to serving on that group, a one-page Curriculum Vitae including publications, and a statement of availability and commitment to serve on the groups during their ~4 year lifetime. Under exceptional circumstances you may request membership in more than one (sub)-Working Group, in which case a justification must be provided.

Applications and nominations will be considered only for candidates affiliated with U.S. institutions.

Applications are due Monday Dec 1 at 5 pm EST. Only email applications of a single PDF file will be accepted. Please submit your application via email with subject line "Athena SST WG US application" to Dr. M. Garcia, [michael.r.garcia@nasa.gov](mailto:michael.r.garcia@nasa.gov).

NASA funding will be limited to travel to these Working Group meetings for NASA-nominated members.

The applications will be reviewed by the Physics of the Cosmos Program Office and by the Astrophysics Division at NASA Headquarters. The Astrophysics Division Director will select the scientists for nomination to the Athena SST, and those nominations will be forwarded to the Athena SST for possible appointment.

NASA Point of Contact:  
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