

Approved by NAC, August 6, 2011

**NASA Advisory Council**  
**Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG)**  
**Terms of Reference**

The Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) is responsible for providing science input for planning and prioritizing human and robotic exploration activities for the small bodies of the Solar System. In this context, “small bodies” refer to Asteroids, Comets, Near-Earth Objects, Meteorites, Interplanetary Dust and Meteors, Trojans (of all the planets), Centaurs, Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs), Dwarf Planets, small planetary satellites (including Phobos, Deimos, and the irregular satellites of the Giant Planets), and samples from any of these objects. The SBAG serves as a community-based, interdisciplinary forum for analysis in support of small bodies exploration objectives. It provides findings of analyses to NASA through the NASA Advisory Council’s (NAC) Exploration and Science Committees, and the SBAG Chair is a member of the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS) of the NAC Science Committee.

To carry out its role, the SBAG will:

- Regularly evaluate solar system small bodies robotic and human exploration goals, objectives, investigations and required measurements on the basis of the widest possible community outreach.
- Provide findings, analysis, and other information that can be used to inform decisions on the science, technology, commercial, and operational content and priorities of small bodies robotic and human missions.
- Provide a regular forum for broad discussion of small bodies exploration science, technology, commerce, and operational issues, which will allow a conduit for community input into small bodies exploration activities and planning.
- Perform focused analyses in response to requests from the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD), the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), the Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD), or the Committees of the NAC.

The Chair of the SBAG is appointed by the NASA Associate Administrator for Science Mission Directorate (SMD) in consultation with the Associate Administrators for Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD), as well as with the Chairs of the Science Committee, Exploration Committee, and the Planetary Science Subcommittee of the NAC. Membership and participation in the SBAG is open to all interested scientists. The SBAG may choose to organize sub-groups to deal with specific issues and report their findings to the full group. The Chair will be assisted by an Executive Secretary who serves as a single point of contact with NASA and an executive committee that will support planning and activities. The Executive Secretary will be appointed by the Associate Administrator for SMD, after consultation with the Associate Administrator for ESMD.

The SBAG will meet annually or as otherwise needed upon request of NASA. The SBAG Executive Secretary will set the regular annual meeting schedule in consultation with the SBAG Chair. The findings of each meeting and analysis activity will be reported to the Planetary Science Subcommittee and relevant Committees of the NAC. Tasking for SBAG activities may be initiated from SMD, ESMD, the Planetary Science Subcommittee or the Committees of the NAC, in consultation with the SBAG Chair, with final approval by the SBAG Executive

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Secretary. Logistical and organizational support to the SBAG will be provided through SMD and the Lunar and Planetary Institute.