

# THE RSDO NEWS

May 2005

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## **A Message From the Chief of the RSDO**

Greetings! With this issue of the RSDO Newsletter, we introduce and welcome Janet Osterman, who has assumed the RSDO procurement and contract management duties. Janet's predecessor, Rebecca Wilkinson, took a procurement position with the NASA Management Office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California in July 2004. Incidentally, by the time the fall newsletter is published, Bill Reaves, our Mission Integration Manager from the Engineering Directorate/Code 500, will have moved on to a new assignment as well.

Some highlights of this issue include articles on the Rapid II (R-II) Extension (it's done!) and On Ramp 12 (it's open!), the R-II Spacecraft Component Buy capability, the National Space Symposium, and the First Exploration Systems Conference.

We are currently supporting a number of missions/mission customers, including the Global Precipitation Measurement Mission, Earth System Science Pathfinder Announcement of Opportunity missions (BioMM, Claim-3D, FLORA, JANUS, Molniya, & SIRICE), DoD Space Test Program Office, the New Millennium Program's ST-9 mission, and Component Buy Missions (GLORY, Lunar Robotic Orbiter).

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and comments regarding RSDO services or processes.

Sincerely,

Greg Smith  
RSDO Chief  
Phone: 301-286-1289  
Email: [Gregory.F.Smith@nasa.gov](mailto:Gregory.F.Smith@nasa.gov)

## Contracting Officer's Corner

### Rapid II Extended

The RSDO's Rapid II spacecraft catalog contract ordering period was scheduled to end in early January 2005. The Rapid II contract was to have been replaced by the Rapid III contract. During the preparation of the Rapid III solicitation, it was discovered that no major changes would be made in the new contract. Thus, the decision was made to extend the Rapid II contract ordering period an additional three years until January 2008, instead of formulating a new contract.

As with the original Rapid II contract, the extension will feature up to two On Ramp opportunities per year. The next On Ramp (number 12) will be held in Fall 2005. The On Ramp 12 solicitation is currently available on the RSDO web site (<http://rsdo.gsfc.nasa.gov>) under the "Rapid II" pull-down menu. The On Ramp 12 delivery period for vendor proposals is from September 1, 2005, to October 14, 2005. Proposing organizations are reminded that they need not (and should not) wait until September to prepare their proposals. As always, the RSDO team is available to address any comments or questions about the On Ramp or any other RSDO-related topic.

By Greg Smith/RSDO Chief

### Small Disadvantaged Business Information

The RSDO strongly suggests that you consider employing the services of a small or disadvantaged business when you select your subcontractors. For more information on official policies and goals concerning the integration of these companies into the NASA business environment, please visit the web site of NASA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codek/>.

By Lena Braatz for Greg Smith/RSDO Chief

## Component Procurement Through RSDO

Searching for a spacecraft component? It's possible that you may have to look no further than the RSDO! All of our customers are certainly aware of the process by which Rapid II can be utilized to procure studies, analyses, and spacecraft. But there is also a lesser known Rapid II capability that allows the procurement of "Non Mission Specific Hardware."

A clause in section 4.2.2 of the Rapid II Statement of Work states that the "Government may order Flight Hardware at a level below an integrated spacecraft." Specifically, this means that any component utilized by the Rapid II vendors can be procured through Rapid II. In other words, customers can acquire any component that the Rapid II vendors offer—even if those components are not integrated into the spacecraft buses in the Rapid II catalog.

For example, Non Mission Specific Hardware can include items such as batteries, star trackers, solar arrays, attitude control systems, and propulsion systems. Customers can procure any of these items and more by employing this unique feature of Rapid II.

Although participation in this Rapid II feature has been limited thus far, the RSDO continues to encourage customers to take advantage of this viable method of component acquisition.

In fact, the RSDO is currently developing a separate solicitation that will be used exclusively for component procurement. The intent of this new solicitation is to further reduce costs for customers seeking to purchase hardware at the component level.

For more information on the Rapid II Non Mission Specific Hardware clause or the acquisition of components through RSDO, please contact RSDO Chief Greg Smith (telephone: 301-286-1289 or email: [Gregory.F.Smith@nasa.gov](mailto:Gregory.F.Smith@nasa.gov)).

By Lena Braatz for Greg Smith/RSDO Chief

## Current Business

### MMS Project Status Update

The Magnetospheric MultiScale (MMS) Project is moving forward with formulation plans that include RSDO support this year.

The MMS team has successfully worked with NASA Headquarters to mitigate the impact of last year's budget changes to the project funding profile, minimizing the worst of the schedule delays. As we shared with you last year, we have stretched out some of the near-term formulation activities, while continuing to proceed forward. The Project is taking advantage of this additional time to further refine the mission requirements and planning details.

The two MMS instrument suite teams recently completed their concept studies. NASA evaluated the studies and announced that the "Solving Magnetospheric Acceleration, Reconnection, and Turbulence" proposal, led by Dr. James Burch of Southwest Research Institute, was selected to support the MMS mission.

Southwest Research Institute has made proposal and concept study report information available on the Internet at: [mms.space.swri.edu](http://mms.space.swri.edu). These products do not represent the final requirements that the MMS project will utilize for the upcoming accommodation studies, but they do provide useful orientation material that one can use to become familiar with the MMS mission.

In addition, an updated MMS Project schedule is available at the MMS project website listed below.

In support of the MMS Mission Phase A, there will be an MMS spacecraft accommodation study task awarded to multiple qualified RSDO vendors. It is expected that these studies will be conducted in the summer and fall of this year. The studies will focus on evaluating the impact of the selected MMS instrument suite on potential RSDO spacecraft bus designs. The studies will also aid the Project in preparation for the Initial Confirmation Review early next year.

During the preliminary design phase (Phase B), the MMS Project plans to conduct a second set of accommodation studies that could lead to final spacecraft vendor selection. The RSDO is ready to support these studies and will commence them upon authorization by MMS.

For further information on MMS, please visit the MMS website at <http://stp.gsfc.nasa.gov/missions/mms/mms.htm>

By Don Carson/MMS Project Manager

## **Current Business (continued)**

### **GPM Utilizes RSDO Procurement Process**

As reported in the Spring 2004 newsletter, the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission released a Request For Information (RFI) in March 2004 to determine if the RSDO vendors had sufficient interest in providing the GPM Core Spacecraft. Three vendors (Orbital Sciences Corporation, Spectrum Astro, and Ball Aerospace) responded with cost and initial spacecraft design parameters.

During the subsequent summer, GPM prepared and released a Request For Offer (RFO) to the RSDO vendors for the first GPM study (GPM Study 1). The same vendors submitted proposals to the Study 1 RFO, and GPM awarded contracts to the three companies. During this 100-day study, participating vendors performed early design work to determine how to meet GPM Core Observatory requirements specifically addressing the accommodation of the GPM instruments. Results of GPM Study 1 were presented to GSFC in late November 2004.

This spring, GPM and RSDO team members worked to prepare the RFO for GPM Study 2. This study will last ten months, and will require vendors to formulate the preliminary spacecraft design for the GPM Core Spacecraft. Approximately eight months into the study, vendors will be asked to conduct a spacecraft design review. At the conclusion of Study 2, NASA will evaluate the vendors' responses and select a single vendor for the Implementation Phase to build test and launch the GPM Core Observatory.

NASA released the GPM Study 2 RFO in April, with contract award expected in June. The Study will commence immediately after the award of the contracts.

Original plans called for the Core Spacecraft to be built in-house at Goddard Space Flight Center, but due to programmatic limitations, NASA Headquarters instructed GPM to pursue the option of procuring the spacecraft through RSDO. GPM Core Observatory Manager Steve Horowitz remarks, "An advantage that RSDO offers GPM is the speed of its procurement process, which allows us to realize cost savings."

By Lena Braatz and Steve Horowitz



The GPM core spacecraft and constellation will orbit Earth, collecting precipitation data.

## **Other RSDO News**

### **NASA Convenes 1st Space Exploration Conference**

On January 30-February 1, 2005, representatives from government agencies, industry, academia, and the international community assembled in Orlando, FL to discuss initiatives resulting from the Nation's new Vision for Space Exploration. Members of the space community reviewed recent accomplishments, evaluated the status of ongoing activities, and examined the direction and goals of future space exploration endeavors.

Associate Administrator for NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, Craig Steidle, provided the opening remarks for the conference, followed by keynote speaker Sean O'Keefe (who was then the NASA Administrator). Several interesting discussions transpired during the two-day meeting, including a review of the activities occurring during the first year of the new Exploration Vision, and panel discussions regarding Spiral Development of Exploration Systems, Exploration and Science, Strategic Planning, and Washington, Budget, and Public Support.

Technical session papers and charts are available via the Internet at [www.aiaa.org](http://www.aiaa.org), and webcasts of the conference sessions can be obtained at <http://exploration.nasa.gov/documents/1stexplorationconference.html>.

This annual conference promises to be a vital means for the RSDO community to identify future opportunities for participation in the space exploration arena.

By Lena Braatz for Greg Smith/RSDO Chief

### **RSDO Attends National Space Symposium**

Three members of the RSDO attended the National Space Symposium held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, during the week of April 4-7, 2005. Although we were unable to present RSDO information to the space community via the RSDO Booth this year, we were able to successfully discuss RSDO capabilities with many of the government and industry attendees.

A highlight of our excursion was the opportunity to present and discuss the RSDO with industry representatives during a meeting of the Space Enterprise Council (SEC) of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that was held at the Symposium. We thank David Logsdon of the SEC and the members of the space community who made that interaction possible. The RSDO team also used the Symposium as an opportunity to confer with NASA's Public Affairs Office about potentially participating with them at various future industry gatherings.

The RSDO attendees noted that many of the special speaker presentations and roundtable discussions at the Symposium appeared to convey the message that the conduct of future government space business in a cost effective and successful manner will likely require practices characteristic of those already in use via the RSDO contracts.

By Art Unger/RSDO Associate Chief