

Astrophysics Science Plan

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Planet Finding

- McKee/Taylor (NRC 2000) sets 4 strategic goals including “Search for life beyond Earth, and if it is found, determine its nature and distribution. This goal is so challenging and of such importance that it could occupy astronomers for the foreseeable future”.
- Presidenti’s vision for NASA: “Conduct advanced telescope search for extra-solar planets and habitable environments”

Planet Finding Remains a High Priority

- Restore TPF Foundation Science, Michelson Fellowships
- Restore planet finding technology development programs at Centers and Universities
- Identify large instruments for ground-based telescopes and balloons
- Decadal survey
- Support for ground-based efforts
- AAAC Task Force/NAS

Priority List

- JWST should be listed as top priority (ahead of HST SM4)
- Other missions list should remain time-ordered

EPO

- While the Science Plan draft articulates credible EPO objectives overall, there are questions regarding the details.
- Graduate Student Research Program (GSRP) was moved out of SMD and into the agency-wide Education Office and severely cut.
- Concern that the EPO component of major mission budgets has declined to 0.5% from the 1-2% level of a few years ago
- EPO review