

## **National Aeronautics and Space Administration FY16 Budget Summary**

For Fiscal Year 2016, the Administration requested **\$18.5 billion** for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This is a 2.9 percent increase over FY15 funding levels (\$18 billion).

**Science Mission Directorate (SMD):** For FY16, the Administration is requesting **\$5.28 billion** for the Science Mission Directorate, which is \$43.9 million, or 0.8 percent, above the FY15 amount of \$5.24 billion.

### SMD Breakdown:

**Earth** - \$1.94 billion, which is \$43.9 million, or 9.8 percent, above the FY15 amount of \$1.77 billion. The FY16 budget includes funding for the multi-decadal Sustainable Land Imaging (SLI) program, which includes development activities for Landsat 9 and 10.

**Planetary** - \$1.36 billion for Planetary Science, which is a significant cut of \$76.8 million, or 5.3 percent, below the FY15 amount of \$1.43 billion. If Earth Science is deemed the Big Winner in this budget, then Planetary Science is the Big Loser. This dramatic decrease in funding is due in large part to the \$30 million requested for Europa. In FY15, Congressional champions of Europa appropriated \$100 million for the mission. It is likely that champions of Europa will once again plus-up funding for the mission this year.

**Astrophysics** - \$709 million for Astrophysics missions, which is \$24.2 million, or 3.5 percent, above the FY15 amount of \$684.8 million. This budget requests \$85.2 million for the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). In last year's budget, the Administration made the decision to cancel the project and to place the converted 747 jet into storage. Members of Congress objected strongly to the decision and ended-up appropriating \$70 million to SOFIA in FY15. So, it is not a surprise that the Administration shifted course this year and requested funding for the project.

**Heliophysics** - \$651 million for Heliophysics, which is an \$11.2 million, or 1.7 percent decrease in funding from the FY15 funding level of \$662.2 million. Despite the cut in funding, the budget requests \$230.4 million in funding for Solar Probe Plus.

**James Webb Space Telescope** -- \$620 million for the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which is \$25.4 million, or 3.9 percent, below the FY15 amount of \$645.4 million. This decrease in funding is consistent with the approved budget plan for JWST and keeps the telescope on track for its launch date of October 2018. The FY16 request for the Hubble Space Telescope is \$97.1 million.

**Aeronautics:** The Administration requests \$571 million for the Aeronautics Mission Directorate, which is \$79.6 million, or 12.2 percent, below the FY15 amount of \$651 million.

**Space Technology:** The Administration requests \$724 million for the Space Technology Directorate. The directorate's FY16 budget is \$128.8 million, or 21.6 percent above the FY15 amount of \$596 million. Due to recommendations made by the National Academies of Science, the Space Technology Directorate will continue to prioritize "tipping point" technologies and early-stage innovation projects. As a result, the budget includes "500 awards to small businesses, private innovators, and academia to spark new ideas for the benefit of U.S. aerospace and high-technology industries." A solicitation for this project will be forthcoming.

**International Space Station:** \$3.1 billion for the International Space Station (ISS). The FY16 budget reiterates the Administration's commitment to extend the life of the ISS until 2024.

**Education:** \$88.9 million for NASA's Office of Education. Like last year's budget, the FY16 budget reiterates the principles of the Administration's STEM reorganization and the Five-Year Federal Strategic Plan on STEM Education.

The FY16 budget includes \$20 million for all STEM activities. While this request is found within the budget for the Astrophysics Directorate, it is meant to support STEM activities across the entire Science Mission Directorate.

**Space Grant:** \$24 million for the National Space Grant Consortium.