

## **Message to Technologists: Think ‘High Impact’**

The Goddard Office of the Chief Technologist has a few words of advice for technologists looking for seed funding next fiscal year to help develop new technologies: “Think high impact.”

The office, which is responsible for managing Goddard’s Internal Research and Development (IRAD) program, plans to release its annual Call for Proposals on Wednesday, May 18. Proposals are being sought in two categories, said Goddard Chief Technologist Peter Hughes. The program is seeking proposals for technologies needed to capture near- to mid-term targeted missions, instruments, or other externally funded work as well as proposals for longer-term, far-reaching technologies.

At least 20 percent of program resources will fund “Early Stage Innovations” or emerging technologies that address a long-term need, create an opportunity, or provide significant advances well beyond existing mission and technological capabilities. “What we are looking for are technologies that are ‘disruptive’ in nature, technologies that could provide orders-of-magnitude improvement in our capabilities,” Hughes said.

Proposals submitted as an Early Stage Innovations may be funded through the IRAD program, the Center Innovation Fund, or directed to NASA’s Office of the Chief Technologist, which has rolled out a comprehensive technology-funding program aimed at nurturing emerging, far-reaching technologies.

More details will be available in the Call for Proposals when it becomes available May 18. The call will be available at <https://irad.gsfc.nasa.gov>. A bidder’s conference will be held on May 18 at 1 pm in the Building 3 Auditorium. A VITS-video conference has been arranged for civil servants at Wallops in Building E109, Room 107. Other call-related workshops will be held in mid-May and details will be available at [gsfctechnology.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://gsfctechnology.gsfc.nasa.gov).

Another goal of the FY12 program is encouraging technologists, engineers, and scientists to establish strategic relationships with other NASA centers, government agencies, and academia, Hughes said. “I strongly encourage our people to aggressively scan the horizon for partners outside their project. Partnerships often result in fresh ideas and approaches, which are critical if we are to succeed in our efforts to give NASA the technologies it needs to fulfill the missions of the future.”