

Q 28: During the kick-off meeting at HQ, Orlando Figueroa said to be prepared to make tough decisions, even in Phase A. There was also much discussion concerning descopes and triggering science reviews of the CSR. It is possible that some descopes could be exercised that would have an impact on the baseline mission, but have negligible or no impact to the stated science objectives. Can descopes be exercised in Phase-A or would any such descope trigger a science review?

A 28: Descopes can and (as encouraged by the MEP Director) should be made during Phase A to reduce risks and raise the probability of a successful mission. However, as also discussed by the Program Scientist, any descope that adversely affects the investigation's ability to meet its originally proposed scientific goals and objectives will likely trigger a science review. Investigations in Downselect were selected based on the scientific merit of these goals and objectives, thus, adverse changes to the science would NOT be ignored. If this occurs a science review would be conducted to determine if the descope was severe enough to lower the value of the investigation below its presently rated Category I status. It would be advisable and helpful for proposers who do make descopes that might be interpreted as adversely affecting their science to provide a justification/rationale that would explain why its science is NOT degraded. This can be done on a change page in front of the Concept Study Report that would not be counted against the page count.

Q 29: There are launch dates possible within the 2007 opportunity that could lead to a longer Phase C/D than the proscribed 36 months. If the cost cap is not exceeded, and the launch occurs before the AO deadline of December 31, 2007, can the proposed Phase C/D duration exceed 36 months?

A 29: The 36 months limitation on Phase C/D (including launch plus 30 days), is AO mandated and not negotiable. Launch dates late in the 2007 opportunity window should make use of the additional time to conduct a more robust Phase B or propose a delayed start of the project.

Q 30: Can the E/PO budget guidance be clarified? We understand the guideline to be 1-2% of the Total OSS cost minus the launch vehicle cost.

A 30: AO section 3.3.1 says: "...E/PO shall be an integral element of the Mars Scouts, with 1-2% of its total budget (excluding launch vehicles) allocated to it." The "total budget" in this sentence means the proposed Cost to OSS (excluding ELV).

Q 31: In the Step-2 guidelines document, there is an inconsistency in the labeling of the cost sections. The table on page 9 (the page limit summary table) shows Section J being the "Cost Plan for Phases A through E", Section K being the "Phase B Cost Proposal" and Section L being the appendices. In subsequent pages (19-24) describing each section, there is a new Section L, labeled "Design/Development (Phase C/D) Cost Estimate". Can you please clarify how you would like the cost sections presented in the CSR?

A 31: The Guidelines delivered in December do in fact have some inconsistencies and will be corrected as follows:

1. Section J is for the Cost Plan for Phase A - E.
2. Section K (Phase B Cost Proposal) as presently listed and shown will be deleted. The required information provided for Phase B Cost Proposal will be moved and combined with Appendix 17 Cost and Pricing for the Phase B Contract.
3. Section K will now be for all Appendices.

The revised Guidelines dated 2/5/03 are now posted in the Scout Library.

Q 32: The NASA/ELV Point of Contact (Darrell Foster) listed in the AO is not responding to attempts to contact him and is reported to be leaving KSC. Is there a new POC for Launch Vehicle questions and for obtaining the required LV LoE?

A 32: Darrell Foster is NOT leaving KSC but he has been assigned a job with a higher priority than Scout. Thus he has turned his Scout team Point of Contact responsibilities over to Norm Beck (321-476-3617) of his office. Norm will now be the new POC for KSC/ELV and you should work with him to develop your project peculiar needs and costs. He will also provide your KSC Letter of Endorsement.

Q 33: Does the 7 foldout page count only apply to Sections A - I of the CSR? Since the cost sections of the CSR (J and K) have no page count, can they have as many foldouts as the proposers decide is warranted given the number of large tables required?

A 33: Foldout page count limitations only apply to page count-limited sections. For other sections with no page count, foldouts are totally acceptable.