



Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Space Research

Coral Reef Mission

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Monthly Progress Report April 2002

The Mission science team met in Sante Fe April 18 – 21 and made progress on solidifying the instrument and ground processing requirements. The previously serving science team members – Phil Dustan, Dale Kiefer, Dan Lubin, and Knut Stamnes – were joined at this meeting by new members Ed Boyle and John Doty, the later specifically serving as Instrument Scientist. The decisions having the most impact to the flight accommodations were

- a) that more resolution is not better, and the limit of utility is about a 5 meter pixel;
- b) that a 5 meter panchromatic imager would be a good complement to 10 meter spectral cameras;
- c) that no more than 12 spectral bands would be chosen, including some redundancy to accommodate individual instrument failure;
- d) that a pure spectral channel would be useful for understanding the data; and
- e) that dark sky, moon, and ground targets would be used for system calibration.

The science team agreed to plug in their word processors and generate words for the mission design document over the course of the summer.

Over the course of the month we have received detailed questions from 4 of the prospective spacecraft vendors to our Request for Industrial Partners. Site visits to two of the vendors helped fill in gaps in our knowledge of particular organizations. Little more can be said on this topic because of the competitive nature of the Solicitation; we are on schedule for doing a June evaluation and selection.

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