



Longueuil, September 14, 2026

To: The Canadian Astronomy Community

Subject: **Call for Nominations for the Canadian National Lead Scientist for the LiteBIRD Mission**

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) invites nominations and expressions of interest from members of the Canadian astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, and related scientific communities for appointment as the Canadian **National Lead Scientist (NLS)** for the LiteBIRD (Lite satellite for the studies of B-mode polarization and Inflation from cosmic background Radiation Detection) mission.

LiteBIRD is an international space mission led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) whose primary objective is to measure the polarization of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) with unprecedented sensitivity in order to investigate the physics of cosmic inflation. Canada is participating in mission preparation activities and is pursuing opportunities for scientific and technological contributions to the mission.

As part of the proposed governance structure for the **LiteBIRD Science Team (LST)**, each partner agency is expected to appoint one National Lead Scientist to represent its scientific community within the mission's science organization.

Role and Responsibilities

The NLS will serve as the principal scientific representative of the Canadian LiteBIRD community and will act as the primary interface between the Canadian scientific community, the Canadian Space Agency, and the international LiteBIRD Science Team.

In accordance with the governance framework proposed by JAXA, the NLS will:

- Contribute to the LST as the Canadian NLS;
- Serve as the interface between the LiteBIRD Science Team and the CSA;
- Serve as a member of the LiteBIRD Science Steering Board (SSB);
- Support the Project Scientist and co-Project Scientists in the execution of their responsibilities;
- Oversee the participation of Canadian scientists within the LST;
- Provide recommendations regarding Canadian membership in the LST, consistent with the rules and policies established by the international collaboration;
- Promote the scientific interests and contributions of the Canadian community within LiteBIRD;
- Inform the CSA on scientific opportunities, and issues related to the mission.

The NLS is expected to act in the interest of the Canadian scientific community as a whole rather than representing the interests of any particular institution or research group. More information about the role and responsibilities will be provided upon request.

Desired Qualifications

Candidates should demonstrate:

- Internationally recognized expertise in cosmology, astrophysics, astronomy, space science, instrumentation, data analysis, or related fields relevant to the scientific objectives of LiteBIRD;



- A strong record of scientific achievement and leadership;
- Experience participating in large national or international scientific collaborations;
- Demonstrated ability to build consensus and represent diverse scientific interests;
- Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills;
- Availability to participate in the governance and scientific activities of LiteBIRD throughout the mission development phase and, subject to renewal, subsequent mission phases.

Previous involvement in the LiteBIRD Collaboration or other major space missions will be considered an asset.

Term of Appointment

The NLS will be appointed for an initial term of **three (3) calendar years**, commencing on the date of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to an **annual review by the CSA** to assess continued alignment with the objectives of the role, including participation in mission governance activities, engagement with the Canadian scientific community, and the effective fulfillment of the responsibilities described above.

Following each annual review, the CSA may confirm the continuation of the appointment for the remainder of the term or may initiate a new nomination process should it determine that a change in representation is in the best interests of the Canadian contribution to the LiteBIRD mission.

Support for Participation

To facilitate effective participation in the governance and scientific coordination of the mission, the CSA intends to provide support, subject to the availability of funding, for the NLS to attend one international LiteBIRD face-to-face meeting per year. Such support will be provided in accordance with applicable Government of Canada travel policies and procedures.

Nomination Package

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application package by email to Jamie Sevigny at mshpas-pssam@asc-csa.gc.ca no later than **October 4, 2026, 11:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time**, and include:

October 25, 2026, 11:00 p.m.

1. A curriculum vitae;
2. A letter of interest (maximum two pages) describing:
 - Relevant experience and expertise;
 - Vision for the role of NLS;
 - Approach to representing and engaging the Canadian scientific community; and
 - A brief statement confirming the candidate's availability and commitment to participate in mission governance activities.

Self-nominations are welcome.

Selection Process

Candidates will be evaluated by the CSA and may include input from representatives of the Canadian scientific community as appropriate. In making its selection, the CSA will seek a candidate who can effectively represent the breadth of Canadian scientific interests associated with LiteBIRD and contribute to the successful execution of the



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mission's scientific program. The final appointment of the Canadian NLS will be made by the CSA, consistent with the governance framework established for LiteBIRD. The selected candidate will be contacted directly by CSA. All candidates will be notified once the selection process is complete.

Thank you very much for your interest and contribution to the Canadian astronomy community,

Best regards,

Jamie Seigny
Director, Space Exploration Development
Canadian Space Agency