

*Space Science Research in the United States*

September 1982

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**SPACE SCIENCE RESEARCH  
IN THE UNITED STATES**

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**A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

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SEPTEMBER 1982



MEMORANDUM OF THE SENATE  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Washington, D. C. 20540

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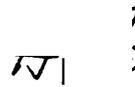
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# Preface

Selective budget cuts and reallocation of funds within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space science program have left planetary science, solar and heliospheric physics, gamma ray astronomy, and X-ray astronomy with uncertain futures. Indeed, many in the space science community think that the program has lost its sense of direction and that it is time for national goals for space science to be articulated. Responding to this concern, Rep. Cooper Evans of Iowa requested the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) to examine the direction and purpose of the U.S. space science program. In particular, Rep. Evans asked OTA to "assist Congress in evaluating the effectiveness of our space science program and in discovering what its future needs are."

In undertaking the study, OTA sought the contributions of a wide spectrum of knowledgeable and interested parties. To this end, a questionnaire, designed to elucidate the issues and problems in the current conduct of the U.S. space research program, was sent to representatives of several Federal agencies, space scientists, and staff members of congressional committees and individual Congressmen. Over 80 formal replies were received. Concurrently, OTA arranged a number of separate meetings and discussions with these three groups for additional detailed evaluation of the issues. These various contributions were then organized into background reports which served as the basis of a workshop held at OTA on May 5, 1982.

The following technical memorandum summarizes and critiques the views of many people interested in space science, several of whom attended the workshop. In preparing this document, OTA did not attempt to obtain the views of those who are opposed to or uninterested in space science, nor did OTA attempt to rank space science against other national priorities.



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