PIs, Working Groups, and Focus Groups: A multi-tiered approach to addressing ASR objectives

On behalf of the WG chairs and SISC

**Aerosol Life Cycle (ALWG)**
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**Cloud-Aerosol-Precipitation Interactions (CAPI)**
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**Cloud Life Cycle (CLWG)**
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New ASR Science Plan

• Considers the atmospheric system as a continuum from the smallest to the largest particles and a hierarchy of processes acting on and within that continuum.

• Integration of observational and modeling efforts to more effectively obtain progress on reaching ASR and DOE objectives.

• A new WG structure organized along these lines.

• Please read the plan.
  (or on the front page at asr.science.energy.gov)
The ASR mission is best served by a combined approach that includes individual PI research efforts AND larger organizational elements that can address more complex and comprehensive issues.

- **PI Research**: Basic and exploratory research. Relatively narrow and focused.

- **Working Groups**: Primary organizational element for Science Team. Provide structure for coordinating broader science initiatives, a means for higher-level representation within the ASR, and organization of meetings.

- **Instrument Groups**: Provide guidance for specific instruments and/or observational approaches (e.g., Radar Instrument Group).

- **Focus Groups**: Organized around specific, high-importance science topics or themes that are of greater complexity than an individual PI project.
Transition to new WG structure

Atmospheric Radiation Measurement
Cloud Modeling
Cloud Properties
Radiation
Aerosol

Atmospheric Science Program

Aerosol Life Cycle
Cloud Life Cycle
Cloud-Aerosol-Precip Interactions
Aerosol Life Cycle

Science Team Meeting
29 March 2011
Focus Groups
A framework for integration of research activities
...and accelerated progress

Overall Objective
To provide a framework for organizing, coordinating, and supporting scientific efforts that are of strategic importance to ASR yet are substantially larger than any individual PI effort. Typically these groups will focus on a specific process that is not well understood and modeled. The results, products, and/or output from these groups will comprise some of the important deliverables that help to define ASR and its progress.
Where do Focus Groups fit into ASR

ALWG
- BL Entrainment
- New particle formation in clouds

CLWG
- Convective Triggering
- Radar IG

CAPI

Example diagram only, NOT actual groups!

Science Team Meeting
29 March 2011
An Example from the Past

CLOWD – Clouds with Low Optical Water Depth
Narrow objectives, ~15 active participants, made measurable progress at characterizing thin liquid clouds in about 5 years, lead to new observational strategies, data products results summarized in *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*
The Vision for Focus Groups: Basic Guidelines

1. Have *well-defined, focused science objective(s)*, which are deemed to be of strategic importance to ASR programmatic objectives by the SISC and DOE management.

2. Have a *plan/approach* for using ARM/ASR data and coordinated group efforts to address the objectives. Plan should outline how the specific activities will lead to improvements in model representations.

3. Attainable progress on a *5-year time scale*, which does not necessarily mean that the group must disband at 5 years!
The Vision for Focus Groups: Basic Guidelines (continued)

4. A critical mass of participation with identified leadership. Target size is 5 or more individual investigators or research groups. Typically participation from both observation and model perspectives.

5. Demonstration of progress via breakout sessions, talks, papers, products, parameterizations, IOPs, etc.

6. Develop a "white paper" that outlines the objectives, approaches, leadership, metrics for evaluating progress, and other details to acts as the guide for the group's activities.
Benefits of Focus Groups

• Recognition of activities w/i Working Groups, Science Team, and beyond

• Specific meeting time (i.e., priority for breakout session time).

• Increased leverage for prioritization.

• Potential infrastructure support (i.e., for VAPS).

• Potential increased programmatic focus in general.
Formal Recognition Process

• Potential groups should gauge interest and build support among the Science Team, perhaps via breakout sessions at meetings.

• Develop a white paper that outlines how the group will meet the above Guidelines. (Recommended interaction with WG chairs)

• White paper used to petition for Focus Group designation, to be decided by consensus of the SISC and DOE management.

• Ongoing Focus Group status evaluated at least annually by the SISC to ensure robust progress.
Provide your feedback

Draft guidelines are on the ASR working groups page at:

asr.science.energy.gov/science/working-groups

Please provide any feedback on the process to WG chairs.