

New Grants Available for Planetary Defense

Bruce Betts




Art: Dan Durda

Summary

The Planetary Society has 2 open calls for proposals relevant to planetary defense:

- A new round of Shoemaker NEO Grants
 - planetary.org/neogrants Due June 28, 2021
- A new program: Science and Technology Empowered by the Public (STEP) Grants
 - planetary.org/stepgrants Due May 26, 2021

Shoemaker NEO Grants

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- International grants for amateur and underfunded professionals primarily for telescope upgrades to facilitate asteroid characterization and follow-up
 - Awarded a new round of winners in December 2019
 - Just announced a new call for proposals

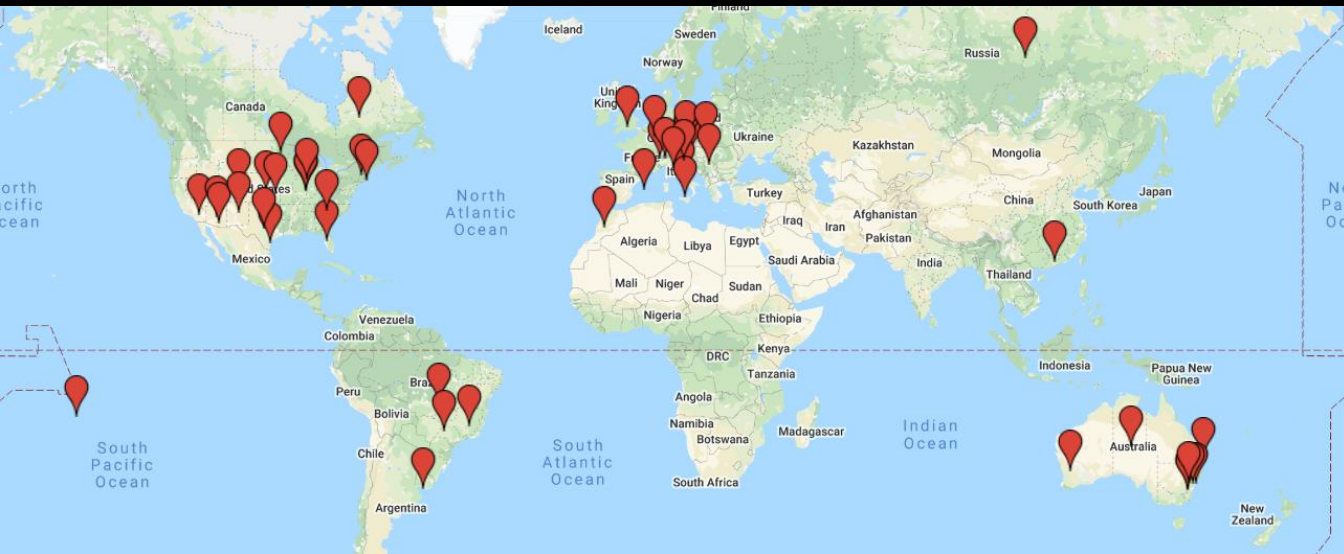
In 2019, awarded \$57,906 to 6 applicants from 4 countries.



Observer	Observatory	Location	Amount
Leonardo Scanferla Amaral	Observatório Campo dos Amarais (OCA)	Brazil	\$8,443
Paulo Bacci	Osservatorio Astronomico della Montagna Pistoiese	Italy	\$8,000
Russell Durkee	Shed of Science Observatory	United States	\$12,799
Randy L. Flynn	Squirrel Valley Observatory (SVO)	United States	\$6,139
Korado Korlević	Višnjan Observatory	Croatia	\$10,825
Alessandro Nastasi	GAL Hassin Astronomical Center	Italy	\$11,700



Over the 22 year history of the program:
approximately \$440,000 has been awarded in
62 awards in 19 countries on 6 continents.



New Planetary Society STEP Grants

- We have a *new* much broader science and technology grant program:
- The Planetary Society STEP (Science and Technology Empowered by the Public) Grants
 - planetary science and/or technology grants
 - open, international, competed proposal process

The TPS STEP Grants

- For this first round, anticipate grant sizes of many tens of thousands US dollars.
- Calls for proposals nominally every 2 years.
- 2 step process: open call for pre-proposals, followed by invited full proposals.

The STEP Grants

- Topics must fit within one or more TPS Core Enterprises:
 - **Explore Worlds:** Increase discoveries about the worlds of our solar system and beyond.
 - **Find Life:** Elevate the search for life as a space exploration priority.
 - **Defend Earth:** Decrease the risk of Earth being hit by an asteroid or comet.

The STEP Grants (cont.)

- STEP Grants seek:
 - Credible/significant research and hardware development projects.
 - Projects needing seed funding or that can leverage other funding.
 - Projects that will generate public interest and support.
 - Investigators willing to assist in crowdfunding efforts.
 - Investigators willing to provide regular updates to the public.
- Note: projects that fit as Shoemaker NEO Grant proposals are not eligible for STEP Grants

Acknowledgements

The Planetary Society gratefully acknowledges:

- the financial support of its members who make these grants possible, and
- our expert advisory/review panel for our last round of Shoemaker NEO proposals:
 - Chair Tim Spahr, NEO Sciences LLC
 - Davide Farnocchia, JPL Center for NEO Studies
 - Alan Harris, More Data!
 - Joanna Levine, NEO Sciences, LLC
 - Tim Lister, Las Cumbres Observatory
 - Michael Schwartz, Tenagra Observatories
 - Quan-Zhi Ye, University of Maryland

Summary (repeated)

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