

PLANETARY DEFENSE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: 25 YEARS OF SHOEMAKER NEO GRANTS, AND THE NEW STEP GRANTS

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Summary

The Planetary Society has 2 international grant programs relevant to planetary defense:

- Gene Shoemaker NEO Grants
 - planetary.org/neogrants
- Science and Technology Empowered by the Public (STEP) Grants
 - planetary.org/stepgrants

Shoemaker NEO Grants

- International grants for amateur and underfunded professionals primarily for telescope upgrades to facilitate asteroid characterization and follow-up
- The program is named for pioneering planetary geologist Gene Shoemaker.
- Grant winners have made many significant contributions to asteroid discovery, tracking, and characterization.
- New round of awardees to be announced in June.



Over the 25 year history of the program:
approximately \$515,000 has been granted to
70 winners in 21 countries on 6 continents.



2021 Shoemaker NEO Grants

AWARDEE	COUNTRY
V. Benishek	Serbia
F. Bernardi, M. Tombelli	Italy
M. Calabresi, R. Haver, R. Albanesi	Italy
G. Hug, D. Cromer, D. Goodin, R. Valentine	USA
C. Jacques, J. R., and E. Pimentel	Brazil
K. Korlevic	Croatia
F. Losse	France
A Maury, G. Attard, D. Parrot	Chile, France, USA



Planetary Society STEP Grants

- A newer 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

- Current anticipated grant sizes of ~US\$50,000.
- Calls for proposals nominally every 2 years (initially have been more frequent).
- 2 step process: open call for pre-proposals, followed by invited full proposals.
- New round of awardees to be announced shortly.

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.

*One of the first two awards was for NEO research

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

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