

First Among Equals: The Selection of NASA Space Science Experiments



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Reviews

Undoubtedly, this is the greatest job by any author. It is actually filled with wisdom and knowledge I am quickly could get a pleasure of reading a written book.

(Kade Ankunding)

FIRST AMONG EQUALS: THE SELECTION OF NASA SPACE SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In the fall of 1957, with the launch of Sputnik I. scientists began to explore a new universe outside the Earth's atmosphere, a universe previously invisible to astronomers and beyond the reach of physicists. Scientists and the media promptly nicknamed this universe space and began to call the people who explored it space scientists. In the spring of 1958, the United States created the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and directed it to maintain US leadership in space science and technology. At the same time, the National Academy of Sciences created a Space Science Board to interest scientists in space research and to advise NASA and the other federal agencies the Academy expected to be engaged in space research. As scientists recognized the potential for major scientific discoveries in space, they began to fight for the limited opportunities to place their instruments on board NASA spacecraft. As a result of this intense competition, a quiet but equally intense struggle developed between NASA Headquarters and the Space Science Board. Each wanted to control the process to select space scientists. Inside NASA a similar struggle evolved between NASA Headquarters and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It took NASA three hectic years to hammer out a selection process that was acceptable to the scientists, administrators, lawyers, procurement specialists, and the institutions involved. Three decades later, NASA continues to use that same basic process: the associate administrator for the NASA Office of Space Science and Applications selects the space scientists for all NASA's missions. It is not a trivial responsibility. A major space science mission, such as Viking or the Space Telescope, may involve 100 scientists, require twenty years to...



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