



Origins Program Update

Henry Throop, NASA HQ

Program officer:

Origins of Solar Systems (OSS)

Cassini Data Analysis and Participating Scientists (CDAPS)

DDA Mt. Hood May 9, 2012



Origins Program Overview

- Origins is one of NASA's core research & analysis (R&A) programs, focusing on...

The investigations supported through this program are expected to directly support the goal of understanding the formation of planetary systems. Therefore, proposals to the Origins of Solar Systems program should clearly fall into one or more of the following categories:

1. Observations related to the formation and evolution of planetary systems;
2. Theoretical investigations related to the formation and evolution of planetary systems;
3. Studies of chemical and atomic processes related to the formation of planetary systems;
4. Investigations to detect extra-solar planets;
5. Characterization of extra-solar planets

- # 1, 2, 3: NASA Planetary Science Division (Henry Throop), \$6M/yr
- # 4, 5: NASA Astrophysics Division (Mario Perez), \$2M/yr
 - One combined solicitation: PI doesn't choose Planetary/Astrophysics
- Origins also funds small amounts for conferences, grad student fellowships (NESSF).
- Proposers to Origins can also apply easily for:
 - Planetary Major Equipment (PME) = hardware >\$40K. Microscopy, computing clusters, sample prep equipment, etc.
 - NASA High-End Computing (HEC) supercomputer time.

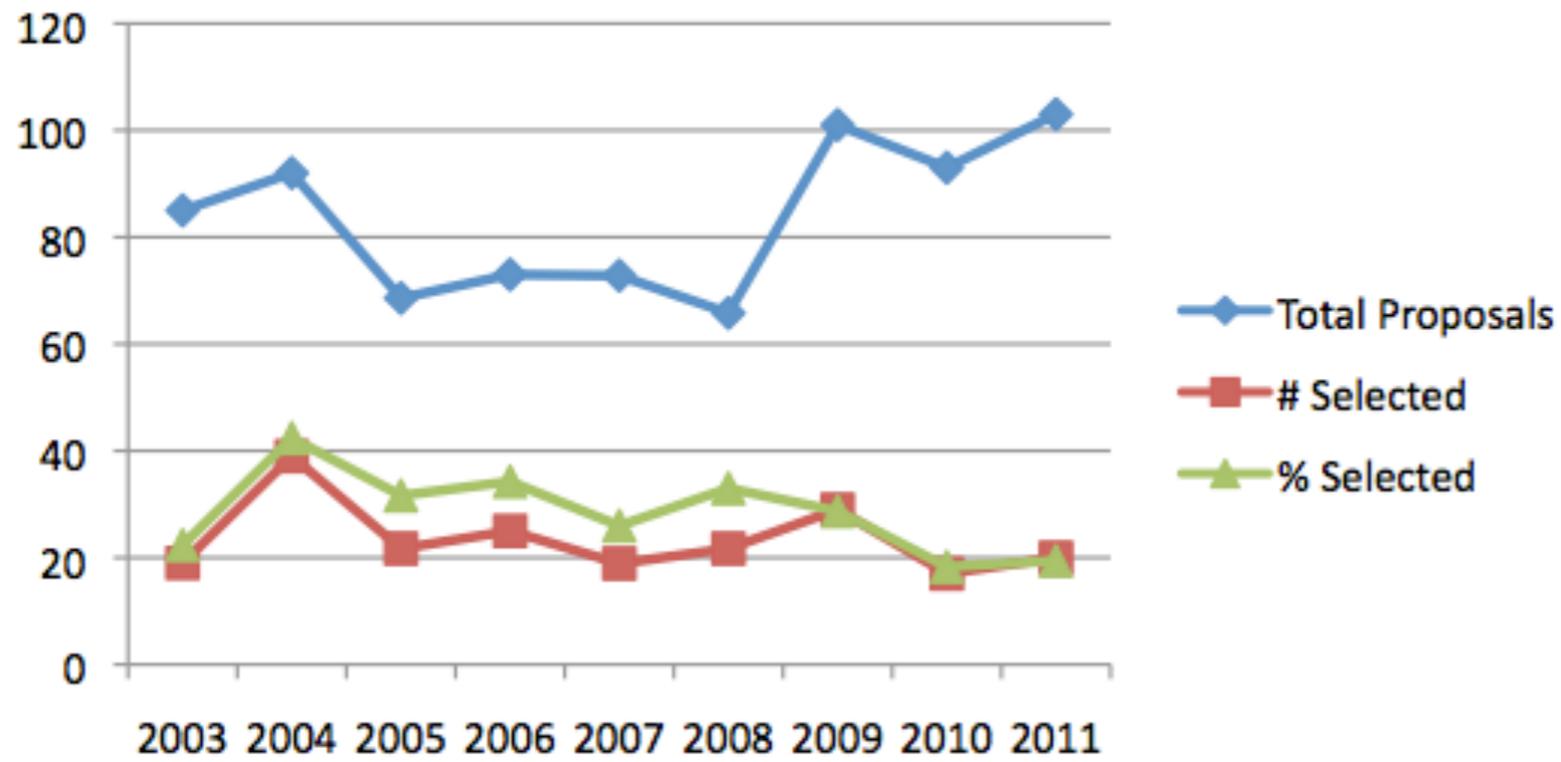


Origins 2011 (last year)

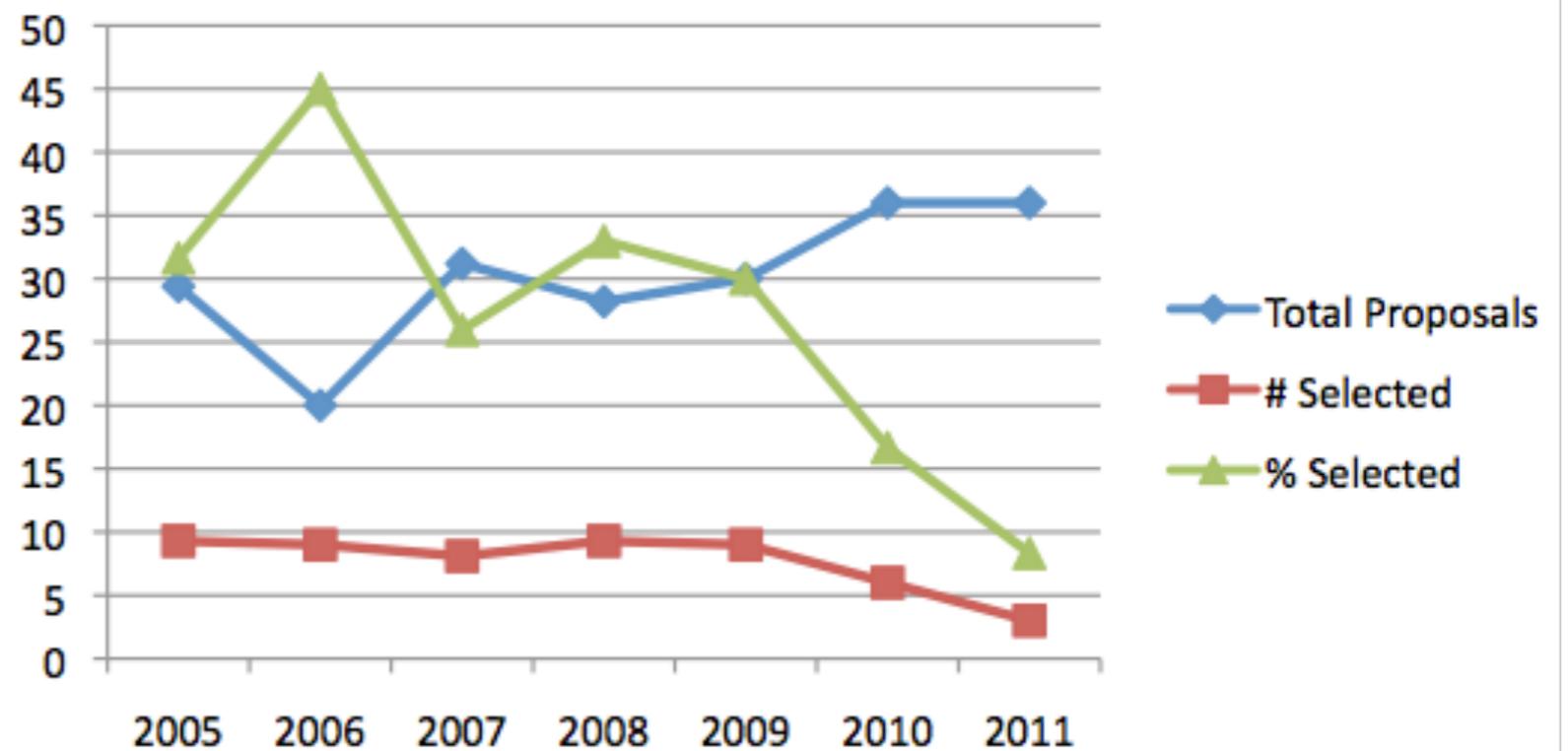
- Total of **136 proposals received**
 - 103 to Planetary Science Division (disks, theory, etc.)
 - 33 to Astrophysics Division (extrasolar observations)
- Planetary selected **21 proposals (21% selection rate)**.
 - Average award \$100K/yr, three-year duration.
 - Two PME selections.
 - Nearly all received full amount requested.
 - 18% in 2010, 29% in 2009. Mostly proposal pressure.
 - Planetary Origins selections were slow (>300d) due to lack of availability of funds within PSD.
- Astrophysics selected **3 proposals (9% selection rate)**
 - Average 2011 award \$230K/yr (observing, instruments, etc.)
- Abstracts of all selected programs are listed on NSPIRES.



Origins : Planetary



Origins : Astrophysics



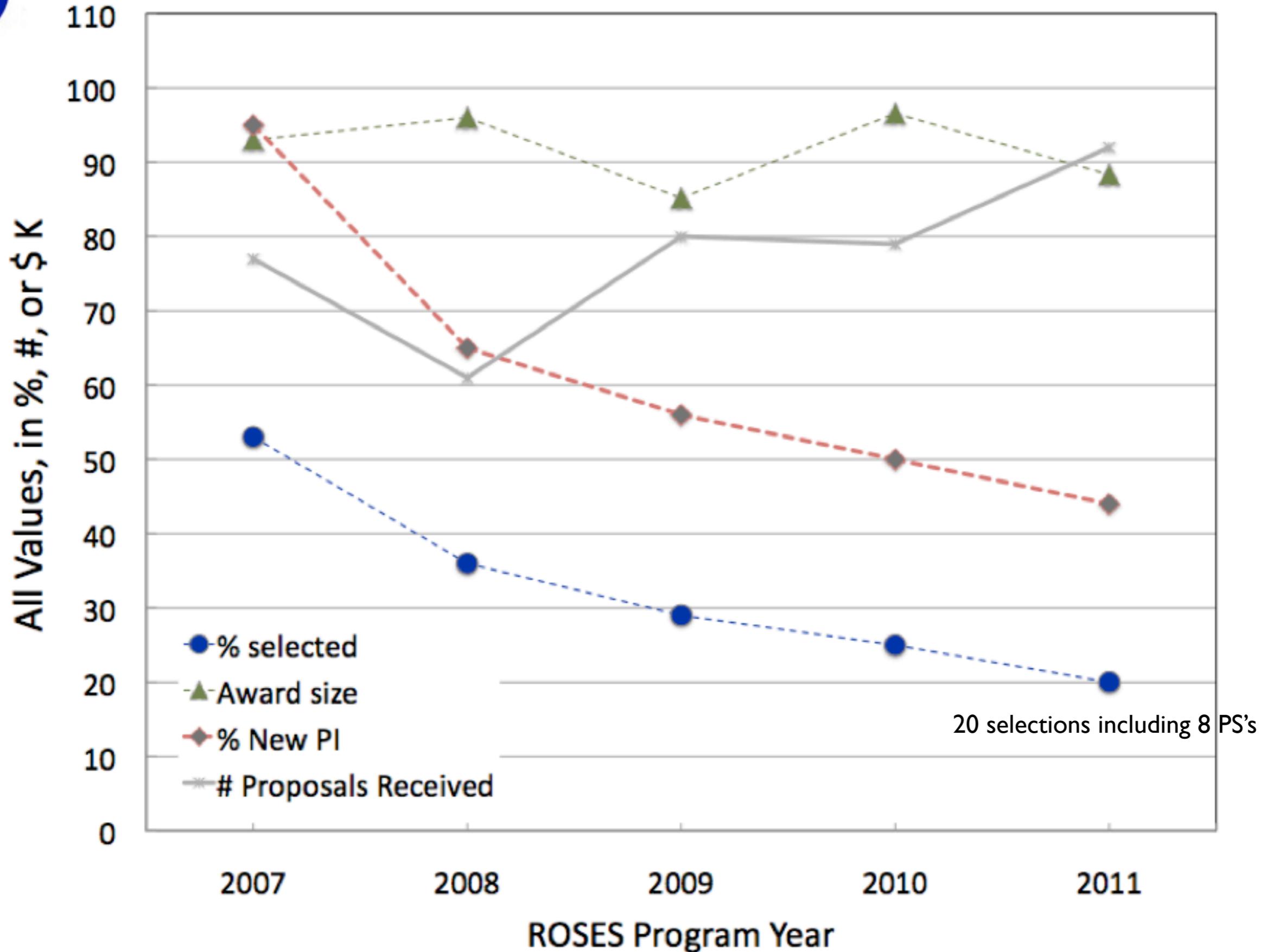


Origins 2012

- No major changes to scope of program.
- Proposals due May 25.
- \$6M/year in Planetary Origins; expect ~20-30 new selections.



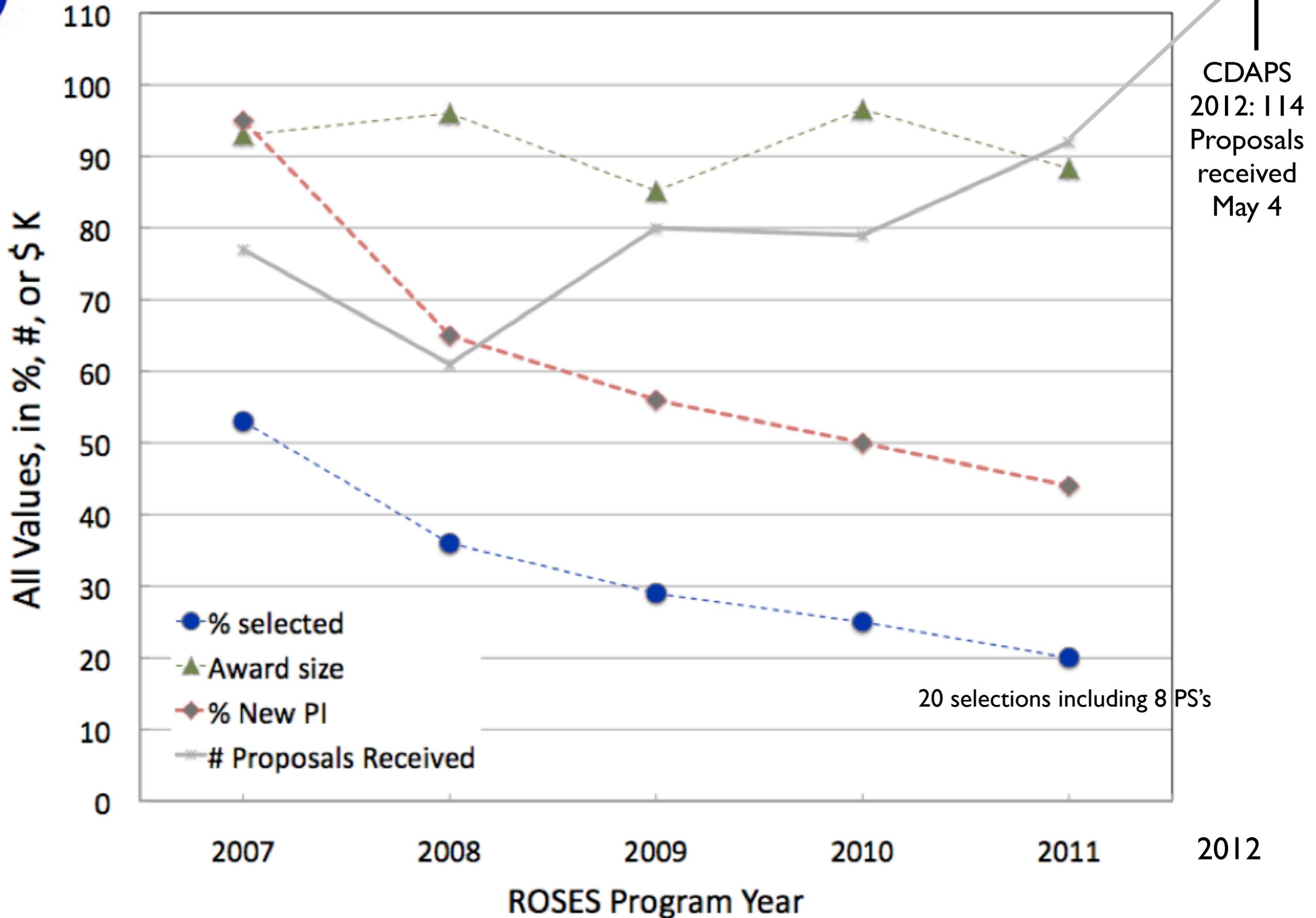
CDAP Program Statistics



Plot and more stats in FAQ on NSPIRES CDAPS page

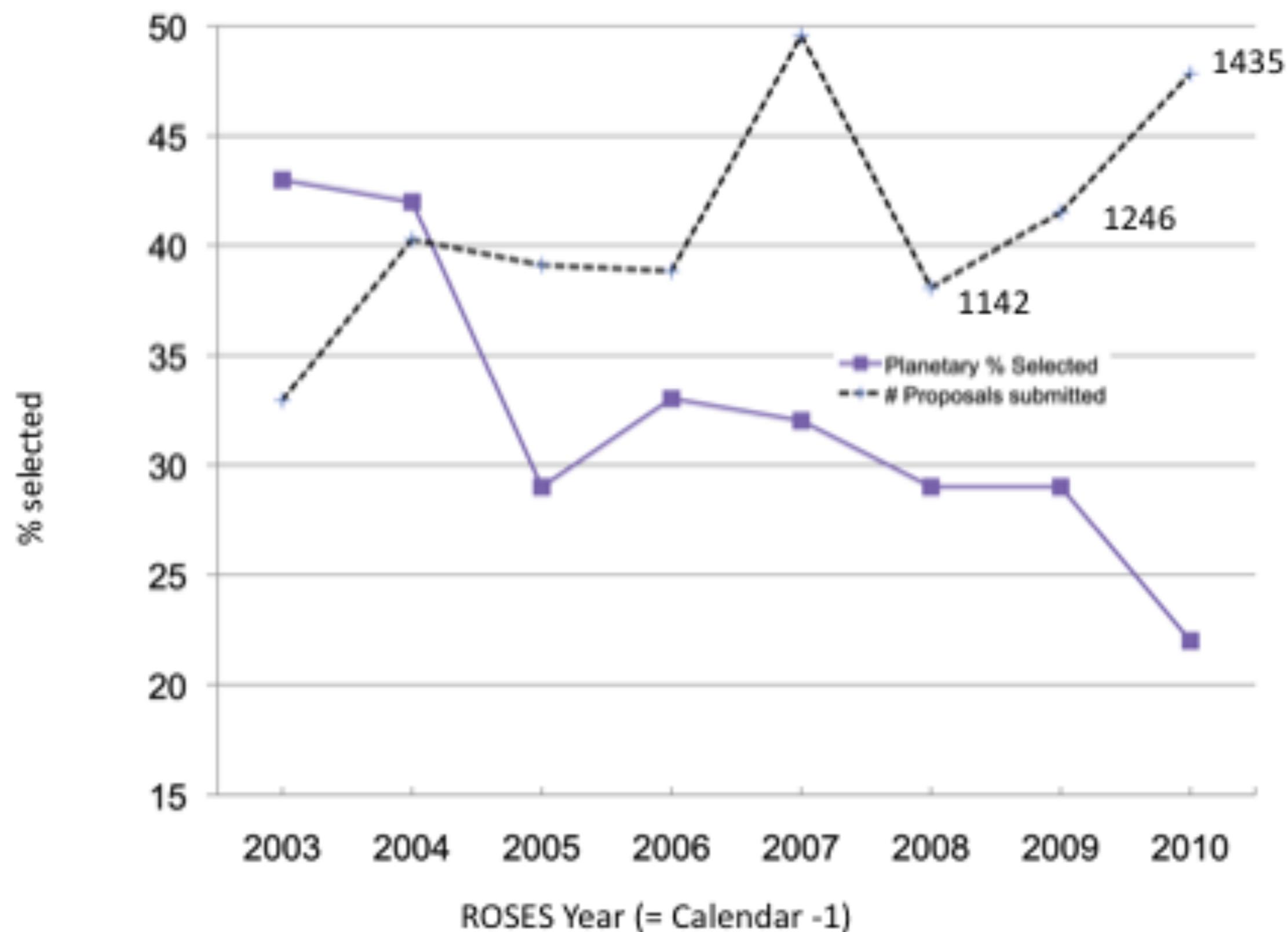


CDAP Program Statistics



Plot and more stats in FAQ on NSPIRES CDAPS page

ROSES PSD % vs # over time





Volunteer for a Review Panel!

- Serve the community and gain experience and insight into the funding process.
- CDAP panel will meet in mid-July, Origins in early August.
- If you are interested and not proposing, please talk to me!
- henry.throop@nasa.gov



NASA SARA

- ‘Service & Advice for Research & Analysis’
- Confidential ombudsman for problems you have with R&A policies, program officers, grants transfers, unfair reviews, etc.
- Downloadable grant statistics, selection rate trends, etc.
- SARA@nasa.gov (aka Max Bernstein) and www.nasa.gov/sara

The screenshot shows the NASA SARA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Big Questions, Earth, Heliophysics, Planets, Astrophysics, Missions, Technology, and Science News. Below this is a banner for 'NASA SCIENCE FOR RESEARCHERS'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'NAC Science Committee', 'NASA Science for ...', 'NASA Celebrates ...', and 'About Us'. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home > For Researchers > SARA : Service And Advice For Research ... And Analysis > Grant Stats. On the left, a 'For Researchers' sidebar lists various resources, with 'Grant Stats' expanded to show links for 2009, 2008, and 2007 Grant Stats, along with a link to 'Graphing how long it takes for us to make a selection'. The main content area is titled 'GRANT STATS' and features 'ROSES SELECTIONS DATA'. It includes three charts: 1) '% Selected' showing trends for 2004-2007; 2) 'Days elapsed' showing trends for 2004-2007; and 3) 'Plots of grades vs. who gets selected' showing a bar chart for 'selected' and 'not selected' categories with grade levels (E, VG, V, G) on the y-axis.

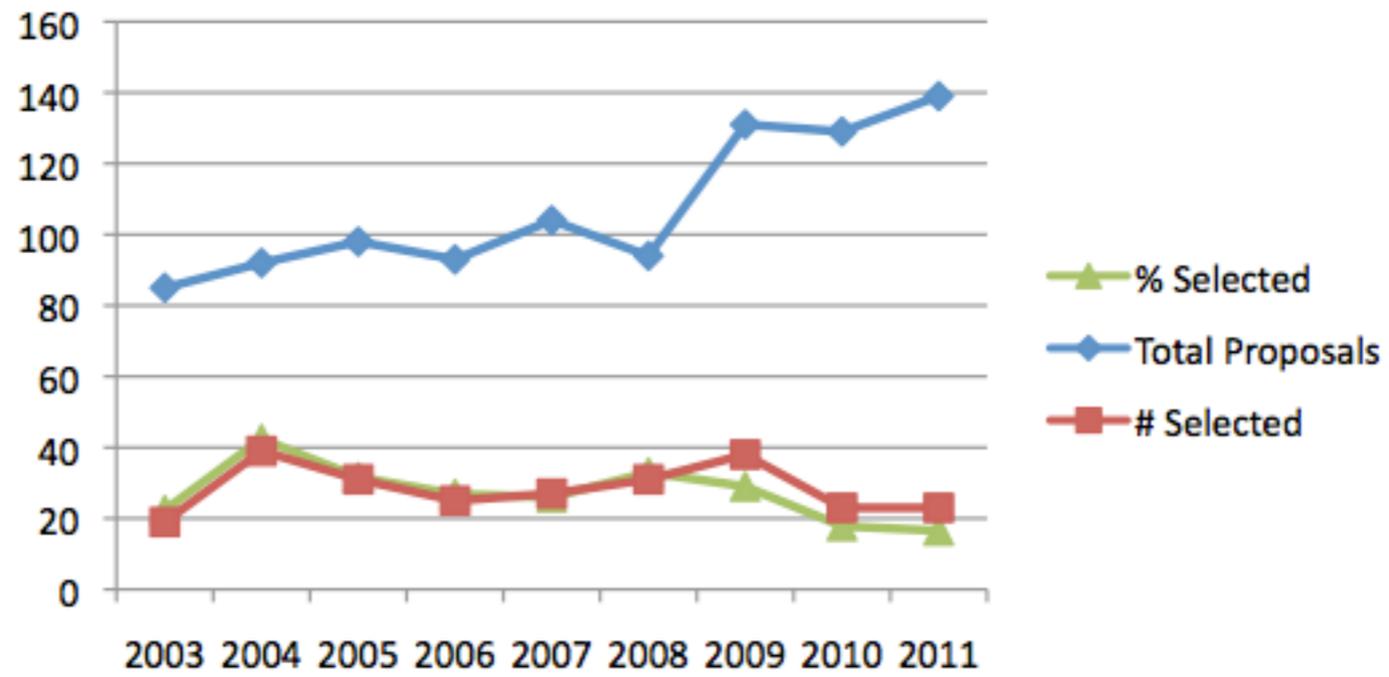


PG&G

- Planetary Geology & Geophysics selections from 2011 are extremely late; 2012 deadline is in 3 weeks.
- “It is hoped that final, official notifications will be sent out in the next week or so.”
- Delay is largely due to internal budgeting in NASA PSD and NASA ‘Op Plan’ issues with Congress.
- Panel Evaluations are now on NSPIRES.
- Complaints to SARA@nasa.gov,
jonathan.rall@nasa.gov, james.green@nasa.gov



Origins: Planetary + Astro





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