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**National Science Foundation**



# The Geospace Facilities Program -- Advancing Understanding through better Observations

- Six incoherent scatter radar sites, Lidar Consortium (six institutions), Low-Latitude Ionospheric Sensor Network.
- Miscellaneous facility-related awards (facility supplements, Workshops, Summer Schools: ~1M)







# Overview of the Portfolio Review of NSF's Geospace Section

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*Presentation to the Advisory Committee for Geosciences  
National Science Foundation*

by William Lotko (Dartmouth College) on behalf of the

## **Portfolio Review Committee**

Dan Baker, Koki Chau, Christina Cohen, Sarah Gibson, Joe Huba, Mona Kessel, Delores Knipp, Lou Lanzerotti, Bill Lotko (*Chair*), Pat Reiff, Alan Rodger, Josh Semeter (*GEO Advisory Committee*), Howard Singer

# Portfolio Recommendations

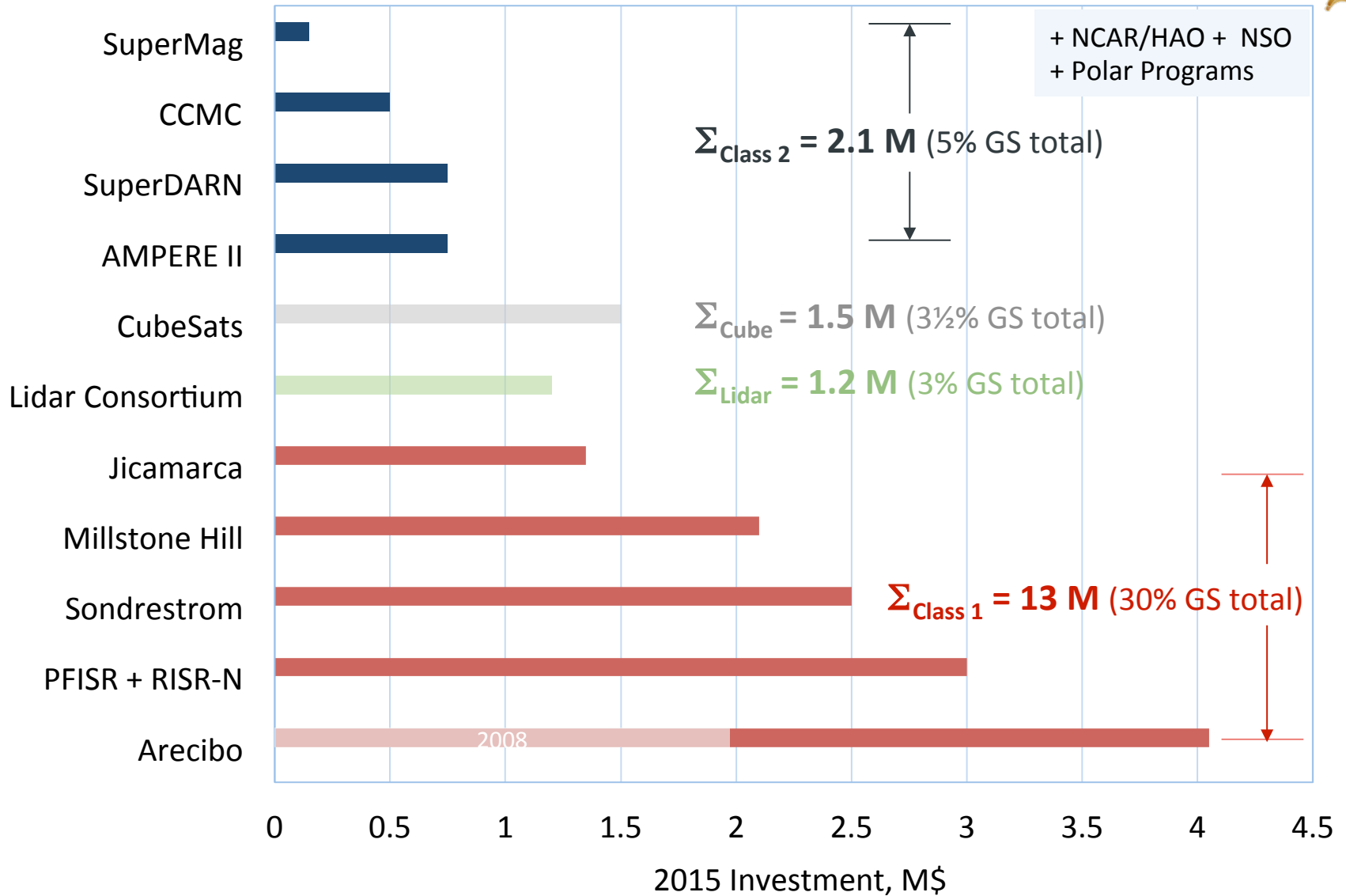
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## Facilities Program:

- *Reduce funding for **Arecibo ISR** by  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 2020; ancillary instruments funded via grants programs and peer review*
- *Terminate funding for **Sondrestrom ISR** by 2020; remaining site instruments funded via grants programs and peer review*

# GS Facilities Investments (2015)





We are receiving inputs!

Send your comment by email  
To any one of us:

**Questions?**

What is the future for Arecibo Observatory?



Both AGS and AST have had portfolio reviews. Both have recommended reduction in support.

DCL letter was released to the community late last fall requesting new operational concepts re management of AO.

White papers have been received and these are being evaluated. In the meantime an EIS assessment is underway.

AO current CA funding expires in September 2016.

SRI has been requested to provide a supplemental proposal at current funding support.

This will be peer reviewed. If this award is recommended, then this supplement will extend the CA for 18 months to 31 March 2018. By that time, a new plan will be in place.



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Initiate Section 106 Consultation for Proposed Changes to Arecibo Observatory Operations, Arecibo, Puerto Rico and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings and Comment Period**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and initiate Section 106 consultation for proposed changes to Arecibo Observatory operations, Arecibo, Puerto Rico and notice of public scoping meetings and comment period.

Alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be refined through continued public input, with preliminary alternatives that include the following:

- Continued NSF investment for science-focused operations (No-Action Alternative)
- Collaboration with interested parties for continued science-focused operations
- Collaboration with interested parties for transition to education-focused operations
- Mothballing of facilities (suspension of operations in a manner such that operations could resume efficiently at some future date)
- Deconstruction and site restoration





## Expected Timeline

- Draft of EIS out this fall
- Comment period
- Final Draft spring 2017
- Record of decision summer 2017