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PRIORITIES AND PLANS OF THE SPACE STUDIES BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES
OF SCIENCES: REPORTS, ROUNDTABLES, AND DECADAL SURVEYS

Abstract

The Space Studies Board (SSB) at the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has conducted ad hoc and decadal survey studies on critical issues within the space sciences and aeronautics for over sixty years. In addition to these consensus studies, there are workshop products and reports. The SSB also serves as the representing organization to the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and conducts a biannual forum for New Leaders in Space Science with the National Space Science Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Over the past year, the SSB published numerous reports in the areas spanning across planetary science, astrophysics, planetary protection, and the Decadal Survey on Earth Observation from Space. The decadal surveys in space science play a significant role in representing the voices of the various communities through a two-year consensus process that prioritizes the science goals for the next decade. Currently, the Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics (Astro2020) is underway, which will prioritize the science for the fields of astrophysics for the next decade. This essay and presentation will provide updates on the status of current SSB activities.