CHANDRA
X-ray Center

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 (617)496-7940 Fax (617)495-7356

September 19, 2001

Dear Colleague;

The Chandra[1] X-ray Center (CXC), on behalf of NASA, is sending this letter to inform the community of the impending availability of data and to solicit proposals from individuals or groups interested in obtaining funding for archival research on the observation of the nearby isolated neutron star: RXJ185635−3754.

The observation of RXJ185635−3754 is planned for Cycle 2 Director's Discretionary Time (DDT) in October 2001. It will be made with the LETG/HRC-S instrument for 450 ksecs exposure time and will be placed in the Chandra public archive immediately upon successful processing of the data. The source is an isolated neutron star with an estimated age of $\sim 10^6$ years. It was observed for 55 ksecs in Chandra Cycle 1 yielding a count rate of 0.2 ct s^{-1} in 0^{th} order and a similar rate in 1^{st} order. The planned observation will provide a high signal-to-noise grating spectrum with which to investigate possible features in the spectrum, including a search for signatures of heavy elements (above He) in the atmosphere of the neutron star. If features are detected, their redshift and profiles can be used to provide constraints on the neutron star equation of state.

Proposal Preparation, Submission and Review

Proposers who seek funding should prepare a scientific justification of no more than 3 pages, including figures and tables, following the guidelines listed in Appendix C of the Chandra Cycle 3 NRA (NASA Research Announcement, on the web at: http://spacescience.nasa.gov/nra/00-oss-07/). Proposals should include a clear statement of the scientific question(s) to be addressed, and a description of the data analysis, modeling, and theoretical interpretation to be performed to answer them.

Proposals should be submitted to the CXC using the RPS (Remote Proposal System) system as described in the Chandra Cycle 3 NRA. RPS is available on our website:

http://cxc.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/RPS/Chandra/RPS.pl

Since archival proposals include no Chandra target requests, only the Cover Page and the General Form from RPS are required. The Observation Type on the RPS Cover Page should be set to "Archive/S". The science justification should be submitted electronically via RPS.

A NASA peer review will be held at the CXC $\sim$ 2 weeks after the proposal deadline to review the proposals and allocate funding to those which are sufficiently highly ranked.

[1]NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, manages the Chandra program. TRW, Inc., Redondo Beach, California, is the prime contractor for the spacecraft. The Smithsonian's Chandra X-ray Center controls science and flight operations from Cambridge, Massachusetts

This call is open to all US scientists. Non-US scientists may participate as members of proposing teams but funding is not available to support foreign participants.

Funding

The science proposals should include a total budget amount, entered on the RPS Cover Page. The science justification should include a short description ($\sim$ 0.5 page), within the 3 page limit, of how the funds will be used. The total amount of funding expected to be available for this call is $200,000 over a period of 12 months.

Successful proposers will be asked to submit a detailed budget following the guidelines described in Section C2.3 of the Chandra Cycle 3 NRA. This will include a one-page justification and statement of work along with the budget forms available on our website (http://cxc.harvard.edu/funding.html). The budget should be submitted both electronically, using RPS, and as a hardcopy. Details of submission place and time will be sent to successful proposers and posted on our web-site once the proposal review is complete and the results announced.

Anticipated Schedule[2]

	Date
Release of Dear Colleague Letter	1 Sept 2001
Proposal Deadline	**26 Sept 2001, 5 pm EDT**
Peer Review	$\sim$ 10 Oct 2001
Selection Announced	17 Oct 2001
Budget Deadline	26 Oct 2001

Belinda J. Wilkes
Assistant Director
Chandra X-ray Center

[2]As of 18 Sept, dates have been moved back 5 days in view of the events of 11 Sept 2001. This is the maximum delay possible as the observation is scheduled for the week of 8 Oct 2001.

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

IDENTIFIER:	CXC-AR-01-01
PROPOSAL DUE DATE:	26 Sept 2001, 5pm EDT (science justification)
SUBMISSION:	Scientific Justification to be submitted via RPS on the CXC website: http://cxc.harvard.edu
BUDGET DEADLINE:	26 Oct 2001 Budget forms should be sent to: Chandra X-ray Center Grants Office Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory 60 Garden Street MS-22 Cambridge, MA 02138-1516 USA
SELECTING OFFICIAL:	Dr. Paul Hertz, Structure and Evolution of the Universy Division National Aeronautics and Space Administration Washington, DC 20546-0001 USA
NOTIFICATION DATE:	17 Oct 2001

DIRECT TECHNICAL QUESTIONS TO:

CXC Helpdesk: on the web at: http://cxc.harvard.edu
(direct link:
http://cxc.harvard.edu/cgi-gen/up.cgi?AIMACTION=vlogin)
Dr. Belinda J. Wilkes
TEL: 617-495-7268, FAX: 617-495-7356

DIRECT AWARD QUESTIONS TO:

Ms Erin Sullivan
(esullivan@cfa.harvard.edu, TEL: 617-495-7447)
or Ms Carol Dzengelewski
(cdzengelewski@cfa.harvard.edu; TEL: 617-496-7705)

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Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
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Cambridge, MA 02138 USA

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE: http://cxc.harvard.edu