Call for Papers

Papers are solicited in the areas listed below for the 2019 IAA Planetary Defense Conference, hosted by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and NASA, under the auspices of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA). The 2019 PDC will include a hypothetical impact event to be both a part of the conference (similar to what was done at the 2013, 2015, and 2017 conferences), and, where appropriate, to be used as a reference for papers and presentations (more details below1). A student paper competition will be held, and papers eligible for the student competition should be indicated as such during submission. Limited student financial support may be available; students may inquire with the conference co-chairs: Bill Ailor (william.h.ailor@aero.org), Brent Barbee (brent.w.barbee@nasa.gov), and Gerhard Drolshagen (gerhard.drolshagen@uni-oldenburg.de).

A broad theme of the conference is to identify the technologies, techniques, missions, data sets, and processes that most need development for an international program of planetary defense. Topic areas for papers include:

Key International and Policy Developments
- The latest policy planning and developments to ensure an international planetary defense strategy.
- National strategies and plans for planetary defense.

Advancements in Near Earth Object (NEO) Discovery
- The latest developments, products, and results on discoveries of potentially hazardous asteroids and comets.
- Current NEO survey progress, needs for future surveys, and related astronomical techniques for discovery of NEOs.
- Prospects for future NEO survey systems and efforts.

New NEO Characterization Results
- The latest findings related to characterizing NEO physical, dynamical, and orbital properties.
- Characterization of properties most crucial to planetary defense mission success.
- Technologies to characterize NEOs via remote sensing and spacecraft flyby/landing.
- Recent work on planned or active flight missions to NEOs (e.g., OSIRIS-REx, Hayabusa 2, etc.).

Deflection & Disruption Modeling and Testing
- Recent results in modeling/experimentation that characterizes the effects of proposed NEO deflection and disruption techniques and technologies.
- Recent progress on key technologies needed to deflect, disrupt, or otherwise mitigate hazardous NEOs.

Mission & Campaign Design
- Designs for planetary defense flight validation missions (e.g., DART, etc.).
- Development and validation of critical technologies for planetary defense.
- New work in the design of in-space mission campaigns to respond to hazardous NEOs (reconnaissance, characterization, mitigation).
- NEO response mission campaign developments, including an international approach.

1 The conference will include an exercise where participants will simulate the decision-making process for developing deflection and civil defense responses to threats posed by a hypothetical asteroid designated “2019 PDC”. Attendees are invited to use 2019 PDC as a subject for their own exercises and for papers to be presented at the conference. Details on the threat will be posted at https://cneos.jpl.nasa.gov/. To encourage research and presentations on threats posed by comets, details of a hypothetical long-period comet threat will also be posted at this site.

For more information: http://pdc.iaaweb.org/
Impact Consequences

- New results on the effects of ocean and land NEO impacts, including tsunamis generated by impacts; characterization of the damage footprint for NEO impacts.
- Interactions between incoming NEOs and the atmosphere; understanding the process of atmospheric break-up and airbursts for a variety of NEO types; this could include summaries of the Tunguska and Chelyabinsk superbolides, and lessons learned.
- Possible post-impact effects on the atmosphere, near-Earth space and space systems (e.g., communications).
- The hazards of an individual impactor, as well as consideration of the ensemble hazard integrated over the predicted population of impactors.
- The transition to regional and global effects as a function of impactor size, location, and other factors.

Disaster Response

- Lessons learned from exercises, alerts, public education, risk communications strategies, and warnings of natural disasters that would inform similar notices for a pending NEO impact disaster.
- Current and near-future disaster response plans and preparations specific to NEO impacts.

The Decision to Act

- Current outlook on the NEO response decision-making process at various levels (e.g., global, national, etc.).
- Areas of greatest risk and suggested analysis tools that could aid decision makers.
- The value of international collaboration, and ways to distribute the responsibility for planetary defense.
- Legal issues related to NEO mitigation.
- Cost effectiveness of mitigation options.

Public Education and Communication

- Current status of planetary defense / NEO-related public education and communication efforts.
- Concepts for improving NEO / planetary defense public education and communication.
- Integration with disaster response, including risk communication, dissemination, and alerts.

ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL: Technical paper abstracts (250 to 500 words in length) in the areas described above or related to planetary defense will be accepted electronically through the conference website (http://pdc.iaaweb.org/) beginning September 3, 2018 (US Eastern Time). Please be sure to designate the topic area your paper addresses (see topics listed above). Please also indicate whether the abstract is eligible for the student competition (see below). The deadline for receipt of abstracts is November 30, 2018 (US Eastern Time). Letters of official acceptance will be mailed on or before January 18, 2019 (US Eastern Time).

PAPERS: Full-length manuscripts or two-page extended abstracts are due by close of business on April 3, 2019. Revisions and corrections will be accepted within two weeks after the end of the conference. The format for papers is specified on the conference website. Accepted papers (including two-page extended abstracts and poster papers) will be published on the official conference proceedings CD and hosted at the Lunar and Planetary Institute’s website. Full-length manuscripts may be considered for publication in a special edition of Acta Astronautica.

STUDENT COMPETITION: One or more of the best student paper(s) will be awarded a prize. The aim of the student competition is to help promote academic work and informed political debate by enhancing research and general understanding essential for sound decision making on NEO impact threats in years to come.

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