

Opportunities for Research on Microgravity

Invitation for submission of proposals for the National Microgravity Research Programme funded by ISRO

Micro-gravity Research has enormous potential in the fields of material science and also life sciences. In order to be able to exploit this potential, ISRO has chalked out an ambitious program of providing micro-gravity conditions for carrying out innovative experiments through the development of recoverable space capsules. The space re-entry vehicles fall in this category.

ISRO recently launched Space Reentry Vehicle (SRE-I), which carried two microgravity experiments in space. The successful recovery of the vehicle and its payloads heralded a new research platform for microgravity research and has opened up opportunities for microgravity research to Indian scientists. ISRO is planning to have several such launches in the near future with the earliest one scheduled tentatively towards the end of 2008. ISRO is also keen to set up ancillary ground based facilities and the development of hardware for microgravity researches both in physical and life sciences.

The National Micro-gravity Research Programme invites scientists in all branches of physical and life sciences as well as engineering to conduct experiments on microgravity both in space utilizing the SRE platform and also on ground. This call also encourages proposals for developing the hardware for microgravity research like 'bioracks and furnaces'. Depending on the feasibility, the flight experiments can be scheduled as early as 2008. The scope of this activity is broad enough to include simulations and theoretical modelling.

Scientists and technologists interested in making use of these opportunities are encouraged to come out with detailed proposals.

The proposals can be sent to any of the following addresses.

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Note: The proposals for possible candidates for flight experiments scheduled for 2008–2009 need to reach the Co-ordinator by **15 November 2007**.