



National Aeronautics and Space  
Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 205485-0001

Reply to Attn of: SS

Dr. Kenneth Johnston  
Principal Investigator  
United States Naval Observatory  
Washington, DC 20392

Dear Dr. Johnston:

It is with great reluctance that I inform you that NASA must conclude its sponsorship of the Full-Sky Astrometric Mapping Explorer (FAME). The FAME mission will not proceed into the Implementation Phase.

The FAME mission would have achieved excellent world class science. The study of fundamental properties of a large sample of stars is needed to answer many key astrophysical questions.

We applaud the FAME team participants for their valiant efforts to succeed despite great difficulties.

The failure to confirm this project for Implementation is due to the following programmatic risks.

1. The continued uncertainty surrounding the development of instrument Charged Coupled Devices and optics, instrument software development, and operations algorithm development.
2. Significant mission cost growth that exceeds the cost cap by more than \$40 million dollars, and the uncertainty surrounding the additional resources needed to successfully complete this mission.

We at NASA's Office of Space Science wish to express our appreciation for the efforts that the U.S. Naval Observatory and its team members have made towards the FAME mission. We regret that we must take this action. We wish your entire team success in their future endeavors.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Dr. Anne Kinney, Director, Astronomy and Physics Division at (202) 353-2150.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Weiler