

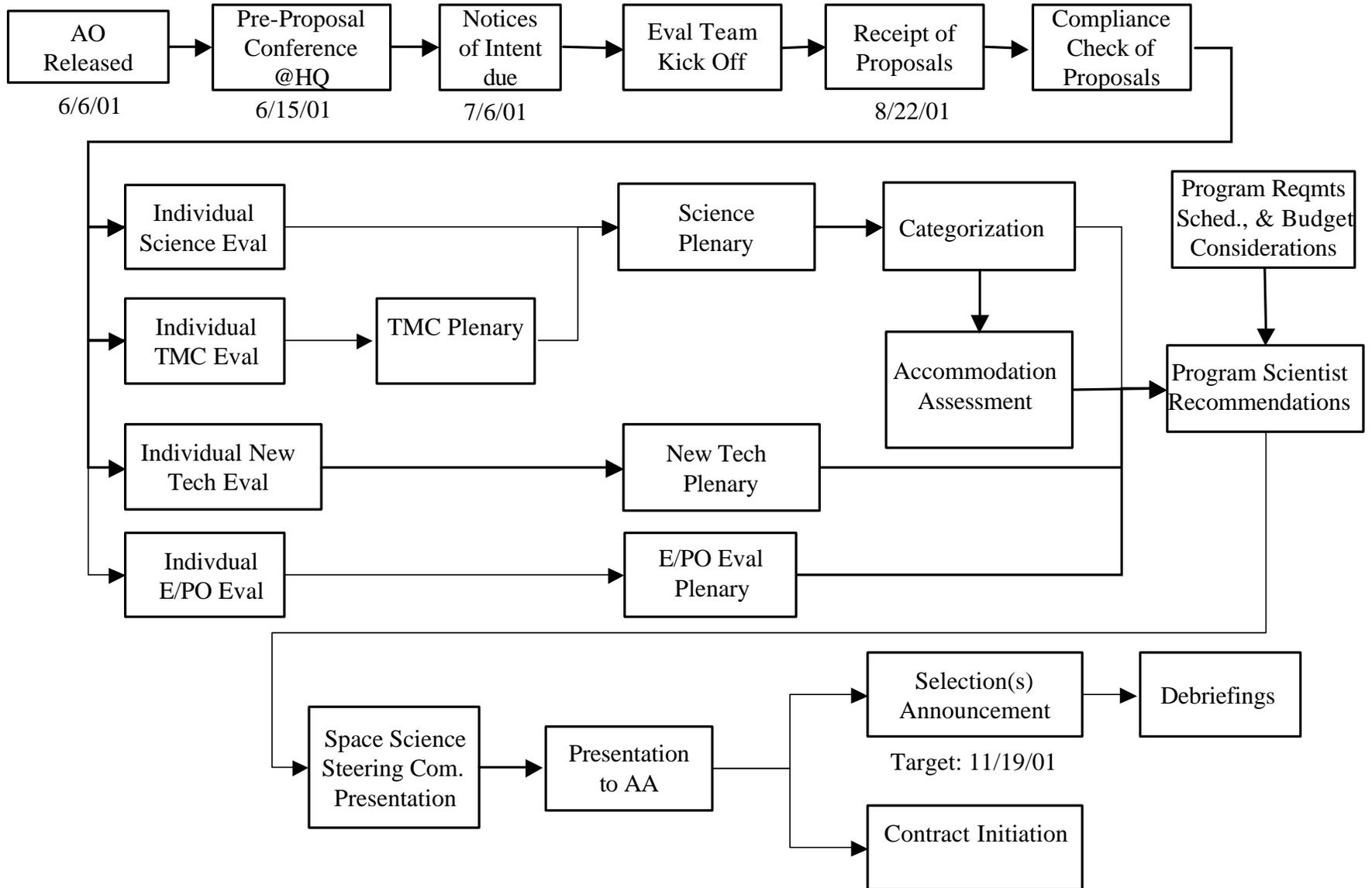
**Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter
Preproposal Conference**

June 15, 2001

**Categorization and Steering Committee
Activities**

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Senior Science Program Executive
for Review and Evaluation**

Mars 05 Orbiter Proposal Review Process



CATEGORIZATION PROCESS

(Ref.: NASA FAR SUPPLEMENT (NFS) 1872.403)

CATEGORY I: Well conceived and scientifically and technically sound **investigations** pertinent to the goals of the program and the AO's objectives, and offered by a competent investigator from an institution capable of supplying the necessary support to ensure that any essential flight hardware or other support can be delivered on time, and that data can be properly reduced, analyzed, interpreted, and published in a reasonable time.

Investigations in Category I are recommended for acceptance and normally will be displaced only by other Category I **investigations**.

CATEGORY II: Well conceived and scientifically or technically sound **investigations** which are recommended for acceptance, but at a lower priority than Category I.

CATEGORY III: Scientifically or technically sound **investigations** which require further development. Category III investigations may be funded for development and may be reconsidered at a later time for the same or other opportunities.

CATEGORY IV: Proposed **investigations** which are recommended for rejection for the particular opportunity under consideration, whatever the reason.

Space Science Steering Committee

- Purpose:**
1. To review all evaluation processes and records to assure compliance with Federal Regulations (NFS 1872).
 2. To assure that the evaluation processes for all proposals were conducted fairly and evenly.
 3. To assure that the quality and completeness of documentation substantiates the categorization findings.

Composition: An independent panel composed of Headquarters Civil Service personnel, appointed by the AA of Code S, none of whom participated in the evaluation or categorization processes.

Product: A statement of ‘findings’ as to the fairness of the process and completeness of the records (with a directive for corrective actions if required), and a verification of the Category I or II candidates for selection.