NASA SBIR 2004 Phase I Solicitation

E3.01 Automation and Planning

Lead Center: ARC

Participating Center(s): GSFC

The Automation and Planning Subtopic solicits proposals that allow either spacecraft or ground systems to robustly perform complex tasks given high-level goals with minimal human direction. Technology innovations include, but are not limited to: 1) automation and autonomous systems that support high-level command abstraction; 2) efficient and effective techniques for processing large volumes of data (commonly available on the Internet) into useful information; 3) intelligent search of large, distributed data archives, and data discovery through searches of heterogeneous data sets and architecture; and 4) automation of routine, labor intensive tasks that either increase reliability or throughput of current process. Specific areas of interest include the following:

- Search agents that support applications involving the use of NASA data;
- Methods that support the robust production of data products given a set of high-level goals and constraints;
- Autonomous data collection including the coordination of space or airborne platforms while adhering to a set of data collection goals and resource constraints;
- Autonomous data logging devices (software, or hardware and software) supporting a variety of weather and climate sensors, capable of ground-based operation in a wide variety of environmental conditions; such systems would probably be solar powered with accurate time stamping;
- Planning and scheduling methods related to Earth Science Mission objectives;
- System and subsystem health and maintenance, both space- and ground-based;
- Distributed decision making, using multiple agents, and/or mixed autonomous systems;
- Automated software testing;
- Verification and validation of automated systems;
- Automatic software generation and processing algorithms;
- Control of Field Programmable Gate-Arrays (FPGA) to provide real-time products.