

## **POLICY ON NEW DATA FORMATS FOR SCIENCE DATA**

A "new science data format" is defined here as an archiving structure and/or file organization that is nominally PDS-compliant, and that can be fully described with PDS labels, but which introduces a novel interpretation of the PDS standards.

All nodes must be involved in the approval of new science data formats from teams and missions.

When a data provider proposes a new science data format, the initial assessment of the suitability of the format will be made by the lead node for that provider. The data provider must explain why an approved, standard file format cannot be used.

The lead node will forward the proposal for the new format to the full PDSMC with a recommendation for accepting or rejecting.

The PDSMC will use the existing deliberation and voting procedures to determine if the proposed format is acceptable. Criteria for approval will include:

- (a) Does a simpler, alternative file format meet the team or mission's requirements?
- (b) Can a knowledgeable scientist easily develop software to extract the data and metadata from the file?
- (c) Will additional PDS resources be needed to support the format?

The PDSMC will respond in a timely manner based on the requirements of the science team or mission. If the format is rejected, the PDSMC will provide specific, alternative recommendations.

Adopted by PDS Management Council 1 March 2006