

SMITH Progress Report January 2012

During the month of January, the SMITH team has been preparing for a second flight opportunity. Basic preparations of work space and organization of equipment were the top priorities. The team met to discuss the revisions to the proposal based on reviewers' comments. We have scheduled another meeting next week to check the progress of these revisions. During the meeting each team member was given a copy of the list of deliverables and their due dates. We have a new protocol in place for completion of status reports.

The mechanical team members are actively researching options for producing increased air flow for filter sampling. Detailed testing protocols are also being written for evaluating the effectiveness of each system. We are also researching air flow sensors for testing and monitoring the sampling devices.

The biological tasks pertaining to SMITH are progressing. We have repaired the cryostage for the SEM. The cryostage will allow us to photograph images and distinguish between organic and inorganic material in the photographs. This will important to determine the number of particles and the number of cells present in a sample.