



One Year Closure of the Cosmic Dust Lab at NASA Johnson Space Center

The Cosmic Dust Lab at NASA Johnson Space Center will be closed from November 2005 to approximately December 2006 (about one year). This closure is due to requirements that the preliminary characterization of comet and interstellar dust samples be returned by the Stardust mission. During this time, it will not be possible to process cosmic dust samples for allocation or to do preliminary characterization of newly received stratospheric collectors. During this period, we will be able to receive sample requests and vet them through the Cosmic Dust Working Group. However, the actual allocation of samples will have to wait until the lab is back in operation.

Therefore, please consider this announcement as fair warning. If you anticipate analyzing cosmic dust samples, please send in your request by August 2005 to permit the working group to properly consider it and for any subsequent allocation work to be performed.

For more information on preparation of cosmic dust sample requests, please visit: <http://curator.jsc.nasa.gov/dust/dust.htm>.

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