

IJSEP Space Mission: Critical Timeline

Two Phases:

1. **Experiment Design Phase** – From community onboarding to flight experiment selection
2. **Flight Operations Phase** – From experiment optimization to launch, return, and analysis

Note: Launch is targeted for **Fall 2026**, likely from **Kennedy Space Center**.
Return of experiments is expected by **Spring 2027**.

Phase 1: Experiment Design Phase

Sept 14, 2025: Announcement of Opportunity (AO)

– IJSEP Mission officially opens to participating schools and institutions.

Sept 15–Oct 15, 2025: Communities Come Aboard

– Schools and STEM groups confirm participation; teams are formed (Brazil + international partners).

Oct 16, 2025: IJSEP Program Begins

– Teams gain access to teacher/student resources and begin preparations.

Oct 16–Dec 18, 2025: Experiment Design & Proposal Writing (12 weeks)

– Teams design experiments, draft proposals, and submit to local leads and StemMed.

– **By Nov 20:** Teams submit Notice of Intent (NoI) to help organize review boards.

Oct 28, 2025: Mentoring Session 1 with Scientists

– Initial mentoring session to guide experiment design.

Week of Nov 28, 2025: Mentoring Session 2 with Scientists

– Additional mentoring and demonstration of practice kits (not flight-grade kits).

Dec 18, 2025: Proposal Submission Deadline – 10:00 PM EST

– One proposal per school submitted for Step 1 Review.

Dec 19–22, 2025: Step 1 Review (in country review)

– Community in Brazil selects up to 3 finalist proposals per flight slot.

Dec 23, 2025: Finalist Proposals can be sent to MF

– Translations provided if proposals are not in English.

Jan 7–18, 2026: Step 2 Review Board

– Finalist proposals reviewed; experiments tentatively selected.

Jan 19–27, 2026: Board Feedback Processed

– Teams informed of any required revisions before final selection.

Jan 30, 2026: Tentative Selection Announcement (Private)

– Communities notified; no public announcements yet.

Feb 3–9, 2026: Teams Address Review Issues

– Final experiment details locked for safety review.

Feb 27–March 20, 2026: Final Selection + Flight-Grade Kits Shipped (TBC)

– Public announcements allowed after safety review approval.

Public Presentation Opportunities

- **March 2026: Science Days Brazil**
 - 10 finalists invited to present experiments.
 - 3 semifinalists showcased publicly.
 - 1 finalist announced during the event.
- **June 2026: Space Conference, United States**
 - 3 finalist teams invited to present experiments.
 - 1 finalist officially announced for space flight.

Phase 2: Flight Operations Phase (Coordinated with StemMed Team)**Mar 4–Apr 22, 2026: Experiment Optimization (5–7 weeks)**

– Finalist teams refine experiments using flight-grade kits; samples, concentrations, and protocols finalized.

Apr–Jul 2026: Continued Refinements (with limitations)

– Only reductions or removals allowed; no new samples added.

Sept 10, 2026: Earliest Launch Date

– Launch timing depends on NASA payload schedules.

Fall 2026–Spring 2027: Payload Return & Distribution

– Mini-labs processed in Florida, then shipped to teams with handling instructions.

Within 10 Days of Receipt: Inspection Report Due

– Teams inspect flight and ground labs, report anomalies before harvesting results.

Important Notes

- **Target Launch Window:** Fall 2026 (liked to be from Kennedy Space Center)
- **Expected Return:** Spring 2027