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Foreword

Genesis is the fifth mission in the Discovery series of cost-capped planetary missions, and the second to attempt a sample return to Earth. Because of its short interplanetary trajectory, it will be the first to return such a sample. Genesis' sample is solar matter, not planetary per se, but; since we believe that the Sun and the planets condensed out of a homogeneous nebula, the Sun's composition is key to interpreting meteoritic evidence on the origin and evolution of the solar system. Back on Earth Genesis' samples will be analyzed by precision laboratory instruments.

This special issue of Space Science Reviews described the objectives of the Genesis mission, the collector materials used to capture the solar wind material, the solar wind concentrator and simulations of its performance, the plasma instrumentation and how it is used to classify the solar wind flow.

The editor wishes to thank the referees of this volume whose suggestions have helped the authors produce a most useful document allowing the many scientists who will use these data to understand the circumstances under which they were acquired.

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