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Dear SCoPEX Advisory Committee,

We hereby request that the advisory committee review our plans for a proposed platform test in June 2021. This test is not the experiment itself, but rather a test of the SCoPEX platform without release of any particles.

This balloon flight would be managed by Swedish Space Corporation (SSC), flying out of northern Sweden. SSC would provide balloon operations including launch, recovery, and safety management and would secure any necessary regulatory approvals.

As mentioned, the goal of this flight is to test the SCoPEX platform. Specifically, we would like to review the gondola's horizontal and vertical control using the ascender system and propellers as well as the power, data, navigation, and communication systems. We would not release any aerosols, nor fly an aerosol injection/release system.

Although there is no release of materials related to solar geoengineering, we will not proceed with this flight without a formal recommendation authorizing the flight from the advisory committee to Harvard management.

We expect to commit to a contract with SCC within the next two weeks, and that contract requires a significant upfront payment. Because of this, it would be very helpful for us to receive an indication from the committee regarding a schedule for reaching a decision on such authorization before we sign the contract. Specifically, could the advisory committee commit to completing a review and reaching a decision (be it positive or negative) about this platform test before the 15th of February 2021?

This would, of course, be contingent on the experiment team providing you with timely access to materials needed for the review.

Thanks for your engagement in this process.

Sincerely,

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