rom: Decisions@nature.com
To: rob.sheldon@msfc.nasa.gov
Cc: rbs@rbsheldon.com
Sent: Fri, 17 Jun 2005 18:16:09 UT
Subject: Decision on Nature manuscript 2005-06-06921

17th June 2005

Dear Dr Sheldon

Thank you for submitting your manuscript entitled "Will Deep Impact make a splash?". However, we regret that we are unable to publish it in Nature.

It is Nature's policy to decline a substantial proportion of manuscripts without sending them to referees, so that they may be sent elsewhere without delay. Decisions of this kind are made by the editorial staff when it appears that papers are unlikely to succeed in the competition for limited space.

Among the considerations that arise at this stage are the length of a manuscript, its likely interest to a general readership of scientists, the pressure on space in the various fields of Nature's interest and the likelihood that a manuscript would seem of great topical interest to those working in the same or related areas of science.

In the present case, while your predictions will be of interest to specialists, I regret that we are unable to conclude that the paper provides the sort of fundamental advance in scientific understanding that we generally look for in a Nature paper. Predictions of this kind are of the most immediate interest to those people who will be in a position to test them, rather than to our broader audience. Moreover, it is physically impossible to publish the paper before July 4, and after that it will be mainly of historical interest.

I am sorry that we cannot respond more positively.

Yours sincerely

Dr Leslie Sage
Senior Editor, Physical Science
Nature
phone: +1 202 626 2511
fax: +1 202 628 1609
e-mail: l.sage@naturedc.com

Please note that decisions@nature.com does not accept incoming or return messages. All correspondence should be directed to nature@nature.com.

This email has been sent through the NPG Manuscript Tracking System NY-610A-NPG&MTS