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Project Phoenix Enters Adulthood

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Project Phoenix, the only high-sensitivity SETI program engaged in a targeted search, began its survey of nearby stars in 1995. It has now matured into a regularly scheduled experiment, using approximately six weeks per year of 12 hour-a-day observing at the Arecibo 1,000 foot and Jodrell Bank 250 foot radio telescopes. With more than one-third of its target list under its belt, a meaningful evaluation of this program is now possible. In particular, what can be said regarding (1) the type of star systems and volume of space scrutinized, (2) the frequency coverage and sensitivity of the search, and (3) the type of transmissions that this program could detect?

In this paper we will summarize the results of Project Phoenix as of mid-1999. We also describe the expected future observations to be undertaken with current equipment as well as with a new generation of receivers.