

**"SETI Project Weathers Recession"**  
**By Raphael Rosen**  
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SETI@home is one of the world's more venerable "citizen-science" projects. Founded in 1999, it employs a worldwide armada of personal computers to sift through vast amounts of radio data gathered by Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory, looking for signals that might have been broadcast by extraterrestrial civilizations. But few organizations have escaped the Great Recession unscathed. Has SETI@home been any different?

In short, no. Much of the project's funding comes from both corporate and individual donations, and over the past few years both sources have dried up. "Individual donations have dropped to below one half of where they were before the recession," says Eric Korpela, SETI@home's project scientist. "And corporate donations have been very hard to get since before the recession." As a result, SETI@home has had to lay off one of its four staff members. The lack of funds also hampers the development of new software and website features, especially software that helps identify interesting radio signals and removes radio interference.

For the full article, go to:

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