### **Planetary Science Division Status Report**

James L. Green NASA, Planetary Science Division October 5, 2015

**Presentation at PSS** 



# Outline

- Mission Events Overview
- Discovery, New Frontiers & Mars Exploration Programs
- Europa Mission Status
- New Cubesat Selections
- New Studies Initiated

## **Planetary Science Missions Events**

#### 2014

July – Mars 2020 Rover instrument selection announcement \* Completed August 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Anniversary of *Curiosity* Landing on Mars September 21 – MAVEN inserted in Mars orbit October 19 – Comet Siding Spring encountered Mars September – Curiosity arrives at Mt. Sharp November 12 – ESA's Rosetta mission lands on Comet Churyumov–Gerasimenko December 2/3 – Launch of Hayabusa-2 to asteroid 1999 JU<sub>3</sub> 2015 March 6 – Dawn inserted into orbit around dwarf planet Ceres April 30 – *MESSENGER* spacecraft impacted Mercury May 26 – Europa instrument Step 1 selection July 14 – New Horizons flies through the Pluto system September – Discovery 2014 Step 1 selection December 7 – Akatsuki inserted into orbit around Venus 2016 January – Launch of ESA's *ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter* March 4 – Launch of InSight July 4 – Juno inserted in Jupiter orbit September – Discovery 2014 Step 2 selection September – InSight Mars landing September – Launch of Asteroid mission OSIRIS – REx to asteroid Bennu September – Cassini begins to orbit between Saturn's rings & planet

## **MESSENGER: BY THE NUMBERS**



8.73 BILLION miles traveled

32.5 TRIPS around the Sun

291,008 IMAGES returned to Earth

> TERABYTES of science data released to public

> > **91,730** average speed (relative to the Sun)

APL JOHNS HOPKINS APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY **FLYBYS** of the inner planets

#### 41.25 MILLION SHOTS by the Mercury Laser Altimeter

8 MERCURY SOLAR DAYS and 1,504 EARTH DAYS

in orbit

O MILES lowest altitude above Mercury

of Mercury completed

4,100

ORBITS

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION FOR SCIENCE

### MESSENGER



### EOM for MESSENGER



Last MESSENGER Image





#### **Global Contraction**





#### **Polar Deposits**

Volatile-Rich Planet

## Dawn's Approach



## **Ceres Science Orbits**

- Survey Orbit started June 5th
  - Duration 7 orbits (22 days)
- High Altitude Mapping Orbit (HAMO)
  - Duration ~70 orbits (67 days)
- Low Altitude Mapping Orbit (LAMO)
  - Duration 404 orbits (92 days)

Total of ~400 days of operations are planned at Ceres



# Ceres Topography (+/- 7 km)



### Mapping completed during the Survey Orbit sequence

# Ceres Topography (+/- 7 km)



Active Water Vapor Regions Observed by ESA's Herschel Space Telescope

### Dawn at Ceres: Bright Spots Crater (Ogmios)



### Animation by P. Schenk, LPI

# Initial HAMO Observations



# New Horizons Flyby of the Pluto System



### Closest Approach On July 14, 2015





# Pluto's Atmosphere



Exchange with Surface

Pluto's temperature is about 43 K (-230 °C)



# Pluto's Majestic Mountains, Frozen Plains and Foggy Hazes

# **Majestic Mountains and Frozen Plains**



# **Near-Surface Haze or Fog on Pluto**





## **Discovery and New Frontiers Status**

## **Discovery and New Frontiers**

- Address high-priority science objectives in solar system exploration
- Opportunities for the science community to propose full investigations
- Fixed-price cost cap full and open competition missions
- Principal Investigator-led project



- Established in 1992
- \$450M cap per mission excluding launch vehicle and operations phase (FY15\$)
- Open science competition for all solar system objects, except for the Earth and Sun



- Established in 2003
- \$850M cap per mission excluding launch vehicle and operations phase (FY15\$)
- Addresses high-priority investigations identified by the National Academy of Sciences

### **Discovery Program**



Completed

-

26

### Status of Discovery Program

### Discovery 2014 – Selections announced September 30

- About 3-year mission cadence for future opportunities

### Missions in Development

- *InSight*: Launch window opens March 4, 2016 (Vandenberg)
- Strofio: Delivered to SERENA Suite (ASI) for BepiColombo

### **Missions in Operation**

- Dawn: Science observations now in HAMO

### Missions in Extended Operations

- MESSENGER: Completed low altitude science operations before impact with Mercury
- *LRO*: In stable elliptical orbit, passing low over the lunar south pole

### **Discovery Selections**

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

Psyche: Journey to a Metal World PI: Linda Elkins-Tanton, ASU Deep-Space Optical Comm (DSOC)

![](_page_27_Picture_3.jpeg)

VERITAS: Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, And Spectroscopy PI: Suzanne Smrekar, JPL Deep-Space Optical Comm (DSOC)

![](_page_27_Figure_5.jpeg)

NEOCam: Near-Earth Object Camera PI: Amy Mainzer, JPL Deep-Space Optical Comm (DSOC)

![](_page_27_Picture_7.jpeg)

Lucy: Surveying the Diversity of Trojan Asteroids PI: Harold Levison, Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) Advanced Solar Arrays

1

![](_page_27_Picture_9.jpeg)

DAVINCI: Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigations of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging PI: Lori Glaze, GSFC

### **New Frontiers Program**

1<sup>st</sup> NF mission <u>New Horizons:</u>

Pluto-Kuiper Belt

![](_page_28_Picture_3.jpeg)

Launched January 2006 Flyby July 14, 2015 PI: Alan Stern (SwRI-CO) 2<sup>nd</sup> NF mission Juno: Jupiter Polar Orbiter

![](_page_28_Picture_6.jpeg)

Launched August 2011 Arrives July 2016 PI: Scott Bolton (SwRI-TX) 3<sup>rd</sup> NF mission OSIRIS-REx:

#### Asteroid Sample Return

![](_page_28_Picture_10.jpeg)

To be launched: Sept. 2016 PI: Dante Lauretta (UA)

### Status of New Frontiers Program

<u>Next New Frontiers AO</u> - to be released by end of Fiscal Year 2016

New ROSES call for instrument/technology investments released
<u>Missions in Development</u> - OSIRIS REx

- Launch in Sept 2016 & encounter asteroid Bennu in Oct 2018.
- Operate at Bennu for over 400 days.
- Returns a sample in 2023 that scientists will study for decades with ever more capable instruments and techniques.

### Missions in Operation

- New Horizons:
  - Pluto system encounter July 14, 2015
  - HST identified 2 KBO's beyond Pluto for potential extended mission
  - NH approved to target small Kuiper Belt object 2014 MU69
- Juno:
  - Spacecraft is 5.01 AU from the sun and 1.02 AU from Jupiter
  - Orbit insertion is July 4, 2016

## Homesteader Program Overview

- The goal of the Homesteader program is to mature technologies such that they can be included as part of a selectable, low risk mission concept proposal submitted in response to the NF AO.
  - The program supports the advanced development of technology relevant to mission concepts for the next two New Frontiers (NF) AOs.
  - 134 Step 1 and 84 Step 2 proposals were received; 8 proposals <u>totaling \$7.9M</u> were selected

PI	Institution	Title	Technology
Steve Squyres	Cornell Univ.	Sample Acquisition, Containment, and Thermal Control Technology for Comet Surface Sample Return	Sample Acquisition
Lori Glaze	GSFC	Venus Entry Probe Prototype	Extreme Environ.
Ryan Park	JPL	Advanced Pointing Imaging Camera (APIC)	Instrument
Farzin Amzajerdian	LaRC	Navigation Doppler Lidar Sensor for Reliable and Precise Vector Velocity and Altitude Measurements	EDL
Elena Adams	APL	A small low-cost hopping lander (POGO) for asteroid exploration	Probe
Stojan Madzunkov	JPL	Atmospheric Constituent Explorer System for Planetary Probe Missions	Instruments
Scott Singer	SpectroLab	Active-tracking MEMS Micro-Concentrator for LILT Missions	Power
Chris Webster	JPL	Tunable Laser Spectrometer Risk Reduction for Saturn Probe and Venus In Situ Explorer NF Missions	Instrument

## New Frontiers #4 Focused Missions

#### Comet Surface Sample Return

![](_page_31_Picture_2.jpeg)

Saturn Probes

![](_page_31_Picture_4.jpeg)

Lunar South Pole Aitken Basin Sample Return

![](_page_31_Picture_6.jpeg)

Trojan Tour & Rendezvous

![](_page_31_Picture_8.jpeg)

#### Venus In-Situ Explorer

![](_page_31_Picture_10.jpeg)

### New Frontiers #5 Focused Missions

• Added to the remaining list of candidates:

#### Lunar Geophysical Network

![](_page_32_Figure_3.jpeg)

Io Observer

![](_page_32_Picture_5.jpeg)

### **RPS Mission Planning**

Strategic Mars New Frontiers Lunar Discovery Other	Projected Launch Year	Power Reqmnt (W <sub>e</sub> )	RPS Type (Flight + Spare)	Pu-238 Availability
Mars Science Lab Operational	2011	100	1 MMRTG	Yes
Mars 2020 In Development	2020	120	1 MMRTG + Spare	Yes
New Frontiers 4 In Planning	2024	300	3 MMRTG or 2 eMMRTG	Yes
New Frontiers 5 Notional	2030	300	TBD	Requires new

- Potential 5-6 year-cadence for New Frontier mission opportunities
  - RPS not required for all mission concepts
- Radioisotope heater units may be used on missions that do not require RPS
- Strategic missions often require RPS; 2 highest priority strategic missions in current decadal (Mars 2020 and Europa) are already in work
  - Mars 2020 will us an MMRTG
  - Europa mission will be solar powered

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

Prepare for Future Human Explorers

### **Potential Exploration Zones**

![](_page_35_Picture_1.jpeg)

1<sup>st</sup> Human Landing Site Workshop October 27-30 at LPI

#JOURNEYTOMARS

### **Europa Activities**

### Now in Formulation (Phase A)

### Europa Multi-Flyby Mission Science Goal & Objectives

- *Goal:* Explore Europa to investigate its habitability
- Objectives:
  - Ice Shell & Ocean: Characterize the ice shell and any subsurface water, including their heterogeneity, ocean properties, and the nature of surface-ice-ocean exchange
  - Composition: Understand the habitability of Europa's ocean through composition and chemistry
  - Geology: Understand the formation of surface features, including sites of recent or current activity, and characterize high science interest localities
  - Reconnaissance: Characterize scientifically compelling sites, and hazards, for a potential future landed mission to Europa

![](_page_37_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_10.jpeg)

## **Overview of Selected Proposals**

Instrument Type	Name	PI	instituion
Plasma	PIMS	Joseph Westlake	APL
Magnetometer	ICEMAG	Carol Raymond	JPL
Shortwave IR Spectrometer	MISE	Diana Blaney	JPL
Camera	EIS	Elizabeth Turtle	APL
Ice Penetrating Radar	REASON	Don Blankenship	Univ. Texas/JPL
Thermal Imager	E-THEMIS	Phil Christensen	ASU/Ball
Neutral Mass Spectrometer	MASPEX	Hunter Waite	SWRI
UV Spectrograph	E-UVS	Kurt Retherford	SWRI
Dust Analyzer	SUDA	Sascha Kempf	Univ. Colorado

### Europa Multi-Flyby Mission Concept Overview

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

Science	
Objective	Description
Ice Shell & Ocean	Characterize the ice shell and any subsurface water, including their heterogeneity, and the nature of surface-ice-ocean exchange
Composition	Understand the habitability of Europa's ocean through composition and chemistry.
Geology	Understand the formation of surface features, including sites of recent or current activity, and characterize high science interest localities.
Recon	Characterize scientifically compelling sites, and hazards for a potential future landed mission to Europa

- Conduct 45 low altitude flybys with lowest 25 km (less than the ice crust) and a vast majority below 100 km to obtain global regional coverage
- Traded enormous amounts of fuel used to get into Europa orbit for shielding (lower total dose)
- Simpler operations strategy
- No need for real time down link

al Margins
40%
Power

\* Depends on Launch Opportunity and Launch Vehicle

# Small Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration (SIMPLEx-2014) New Awards in FY15

### LunaH-Map: Lunar Polar Hydrogen Mapper PI: Craig Hardgrove, ASU School of Earth and Space Exploration

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

**Orbit ground track** shown for entire 60 (Earth) day science phase: 141 passes over target area initially (and periodically) centered on Shackleton Crater with close-approach of 5 km at each perilune crossing. Yellow circle denotes LunaH-Map altitude of 8 km; green circle denotes LunaH-Map altitude of 12 km.

(LunaH-Map) is a 6U CubeSat that will enter a polar orbit around the Moon with a low altitude (5-12km) perilune centered on the lunar South Pole. LunaH-Map carries two neutron spectrometers that will produce maps of near-surface hydrogen (H). LunaH-Map will map H within permanently shadowed craters to determine its spatial distribution, map H distributions with depth (< 1 meter), and map the distribution of H in other permanently shadowed regions (PSRs) throughout the South Pole.

![](_page_41_Figure_4.jpeg)

### (Q-PACE): CubeSat Particle Aggregation and Collision Experiment PI: Josh Colwell, University of Central Florida

**Q-PACE** is a thermos sized, LEO CubeSat, that will explore the fundamental properties of low-velocity (< 10 m/s) particle collision in a microgravity environment in an effort to better understand the mechanics of early planetoid development.

Q-PACE is a 2U CubeSat with a collision test cell and several particle reservoirs that contain meteoritic chondrules, dust particles, dust aggregates, and larger spherical monomers. Particles will be introduced into the test cell for a series of separate zero gravity experimental runs. The test cell will be mechanically agitated to induce collisions, which will be recorded by on-board video for later downlink and analysis.

Q-PACE has been accepted by the NASA CubeSat Launch Initiative program in the 2015 round of selections.

![](_page_42_Figure_4.jpeg)

Q-PACE from opposite ends with the outer walls and solar panels removed to reveal the spacecraft components. Simplex Cubesats Approved for Tech Development (1 year) Study ONLY

### Mars Micro Orbiter PI: Michael Malin, Malin Space Science Systems

The **Mars Micro Orbiter (MMO)** mission uses a 6U-class Cubesat to measure the Mars atmosphere in visible and infrared wavelengths from Mars orbit.

2.2 m

These science measurements will:

- Extend the temporal coverage of the global synoptic meteorological record of Mars, which includes atmospheric thermal structure, dust and condensate clouds, and seasonal and perennial polar cap behavior,
- (2) Characterize the dynamics and energy budget of the current Mars atmosphere,
- (3) Support present and future Mars missions
- (4) Characterize present-day habitability

The CubeSat can also act as an orbital communication relay for Mars surface-based missions.

### HALO: Hydrogen Albedo Lunar Orbiter PI: Michael Collier, NASA GSFC

#### Hydrogen Albedo Lunar Orbiter (HALO)

![](_page_45_Picture_2.jpeg)

**HALO** is a propulsion-driven 6U CubeSat with an ion spectrometer that simultaneously observes the impinging solar wind and the reflected ion component with a nadir-facing low-energy neutral atom imager that observes the upward moving neutral hydrogen.

The HALO mission will survey the surface of the Moon for a minimum of 3 months, allowing it to measure multiple trajectories of the solar wind, follow the moon into the wake region of the Earth's magnetosphere, and sample meteoric impact.

The goal is to measure the flux as a function of location, solar phase angle, subsurface mineralogy, magnetic anomaly condition, and under meteor shower conditions in order to map the potential for the formation of water and OH in the lunar regolith.

### **DAVID: Diminutive Asteroid Visitor using Ion Drive** PI: Geoffrey Landis, NASA Glenn Research Center

**DAVID** is a 6U CubeSat mission that will investigate an asteroid much smaller than any investigated by previous spacecraft missions and will be the first NASA mission to investigate an Earth-crossing asteroid.

Despite its small size, the DAVID CubeSat will have three primary instruments that would operate for a short-duration flyby, including a wide-field camera, a narrow-field camera and a point VNIR spectrometer.

DAVID will provide critical first-order data on 2001–GP2's size, shape, composition, and source region in the main belt, while scouting its rotational state and physical properties.

![](_page_46_Picture_4.jpeg)

# **Initiate New Studies**

# National Academy R&A Study

Objective: Examine the program elements of the PSD R&A programs, as they currently exist following restructuring, for their consistency with past NRC advice.

The committee will address the following questions:

- 1. Are the PSD R&A program elements appropriately linked to, and do they encompass the range and scope of activities needed to support, the NASA Strategic Objective for Planetary Science and the PSD Science Goals, as articulated in the 2014 NASA Science Plan?
- 2. Are the PSD R&A program elements appropriately structured to develop the broad base of knowledge and broad range of activities needed both to enable new spaceflight missions and to interpret and maximize the scientific return from existing missions?

# Ice Giants Study

- Initiate an Ice Giants Study assigned to JPL
- Goal: Assess science priorities and affordable mission concepts & options in preparation for the next Decadal Survey
- Objectives:
  - Identify mission concepts that can address science priorities based on what has been learned since the 2013-2022 Decadal
  - Identify potential concepts across a spectrum of price points
  - Identify enabling/enhancing technologies
  - Assess capabilities afforded by SLS

# Study Ground-Rules

- Address both Uranus and Neptune Orbiters
- Target cost range NTE \$2B (FY15\$) per mission
- Technical aspects to investigate:
  - Determine pros/cons in using one spacecraft design for both missions (possibility of joint development of two copies)
  - Evaluate use of realistic emerging enabling technologies: distinguish mission specific vs. broad applicability
  - Constrain missions to fit on a commercial LV
  - Identify benefits/cost savings if SLS were available (e.g., time, trajectory...)
- Identify clean-interface roles for potential international partnerships
- Establish a Science Definition Team (SDT)
  - ESA has been invited to provide team members

# Joint SDT for a Venus Mission

- A Science Definition Team (SDT) was established by NASA and the Russian Academy of Sciences' Space Research Institute (IKI) to examine potential future Venus mission scenarios that could prove of interest to both of our science communities
- The SDT held its first meeting in Moscow earlier this month to begin the exchange of ideas and will hold a second meeting in February 2016
- NASA will await the findings of this team before deciding on a next course of action

## **New Communications Policy**

### NASA's Evolving Communications Policy

The role of science missions in NASA communications has evolved since missions were directed to propose and spend 1% of their total budget on education and public outreach (EPO). In 2014:

- NASA's policy documents established new definitions for communications.
  - Traditional news and social media, multimedia and public outreach and engagement were consolidated.
- EPO funding was removed from mission budgets.
- Education activities and funding were consolidated within SMD, under the Director for Science Engagement and Partnerships (see K. Erickson presentation)
  - Activities and funding were restructured along science disciplines, not missions.
  - The Director for Science Engagement and Partnerships has responsibility for integrated education strategies within SMD.

## NASA's Definition of Communications

NASA has defined communications as follows:

- A comprehensive set of activities to effectively convey, and provide an understanding and inspiration about NASA's work, its objectives and benefits to target audiences, the public and other stakeholders, including NASA employees.
- These activities are intended to promote interest and foster participation in NASA's endeavors, and to develop exposure to, and appreciation for, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

NOTE: This SMD policy does not cover technical communications directed at the scientific and technical community including scientific papers, technical reports, and web sites serving mission data and other technical information.

# **Roles and Responsibilities**

### NASA Center or JPL Office of Communications

- Missions must use the communications office of a NASA center or JPL to manage the communications plan and activities.
- These communications offices will be responsible for leading, coordinating, and executing mission communications activities -- in coordination with the mission's Principal Investigator (PI) for PI-led missions -- and with approval of Headquarters SMD and Office of Communications.
- The communications office develops the communications plan with the project and PI during Phase B of the mission.
- Mission-related communications are funded from the project budget (not within the PI's mission cost cap).

# **Roles and Responsibilities**

### Principal Investigators

- The PI is a key spokesperson for the mission along with NASA officials -- and is integral in communicating mission updates, science, and new discoveries.
- The PI provides content, analysis, and context for communications activities to convey an understanding of the mission, its objectives and benefits to target audiences, the public, and other stakeholders.
- The PI coordinates with the designated NASA center communications office for all mission-related communications activities.
  - All mission news releases are reviewed by the PI (or designee).
  - In the case of incompatible views, NASA has final decision on release of public products, while ensuring that scientific and technical information remains accurate and unfiltered.

Jeffery Hollingsworth, Co-Organizer (NASA Ames) Lori Glaze, Co-Organizer (NASA GSFC) Shawn Domagal-Goldman, Lead SOC Facilitator (NASA GSFC)

![](_page_57_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II: Understanding How Climate Systems Work

NASA Ames Research Center Moffett Field, CA September 8-11, 2015

![](_page_57_Picture_4.jpeg)

Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II

### **Conference Summary & Initial Findings**

- Approximately 100 participants gathered for 3.5 days at CCTP2!
- Cross-disciplinary theme: <u>"Understanding How Climate Systems Work"</u>
- Lots of *group discussions* after all <u>14 sub-theme sessions</u>
- An official NASA Conference Proceeding (CP) will be the product from the CCTP2 (ext. abstracts (4 pp.); Executive Summary; Key Findings; etc)
- The complete oral program <u>is archived and available for re-streaming</u> at cctp2.arc.nasa.gov
- Formal AGU/Eos Meeting Report is being formulated
- Community interest for a new ROSES element on <u>comparative planetary</u>
- <u>climates</u> or an embellishment within the re-structured PSD R&A elements
- Formal planetary climate models inter-comparison project is desired: benchmarking and assessment of climate model biases
- Ad hoc SOC (early-career volunteers) for CCTP3 (July 2017) has been formulated

### Comparative Climates of Terrestrial Planets II

### Acknowledgements

#### The Science Organizing Committee (SOC)

Patricia Beauchamp (Caltech/JPL) David Brain (University of Colorado, Boulder) Mark Bullock (SWRI) Anthony Del Genio (NASA GISS) Lindy Elkins-Tanton (ASU) Kelly Fast (NASA HQ/PSD) Francois Forget (CNRS/LMD) Jonathan Mitchell (University of California, Los Angeles) Yvonne Pendleton (NASA ARC) Douglas Rabin (NASA GSFC) Adam Showman (University of Arizona) Timothy Titus (USGS) Robin Wordsworth (Harvard University)

#### The Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

Jennifer Baer (SSERVI) Shirley Berthold (SSERVI), Co-Chair Amanda Brecht (NASA ARC/BAER) Carrie Chavez (NASA ARC/SETI) Ricky Guest (SSERVI) Maria Leus (SSERVI) Ashcon Nejad (SSERVI) Sandra Owen (NASA ARC), Co-Chair Greg Schmidt (SSERVI)

#### The Ex Officio Program Participants

Richard Eckman (NASA HQ/ESD) Madhulika Guhathakurta (NASA HQ/HPD) Adriana Ocampo (NASA HQ/PSD) Jonathan Rall (NASA HQ/PSD) Martin Still (NASA HQ/APD) Thomas Thompson (Caltech/JPL)

### Questions?

![](_page_60_Picture_1.jpeg)

Image by john doe