

# NASA and Future Human Exploration of the Solar System

Presentation to the AEE NORTHERN OH CHAPTER

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## Introduction

- Why space flight?
- The Space Act and Technology Development.
- Human exploration of space (in the past).
- Transitions.
- New Space Launch System.
- Robotic Mars Exploration.
- Pluto and New Horizons.
- Concluding remarks.





#### Why Space Flight? The National Aeronautics and Space Act (1958)

- (1) The expansion of human knowledge of the Earth and of phenomena in the atmosphere and space;
- (2) The improvement of the usefulness, performance, speed, safety, and efficiency of aeronautical and space vehicles;
- (3) The development and operation of vehicles capable of carrying instruments, equipment, supplies, and living organisms through space;
- (4) The establishment of long-range studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes;
- (5) The preservation of the role of the United States as a leader in aeronautical and space science and technology and in the application thereof to the conduct of peaceful activities within and outside the atmosphere;

#### Why Space Flight? The National Aeronautics and Space Act (1958)

- (6) The making available to agencies directly concerned with national defense of discoveries that have military value or significance, and the furnishing by such agencies, to the civilian agency established to direct and control nonmilitary aeronautical and space activities, of information as to discoveries which have value or significance to that agency;
- (7) Cooperation by the United States with other nations and groups of nations in work done pursuant to this Act and in the peaceful application of the results thereof;
- (8) The most effective utilization of the scientific and engineering resources of the United States, with close cooperation among all interested agencies of the United States in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, facilities, and equipment; and
- (9) The preservation of the United States preeminent position in aeronautics and space through research and technology development related to associated manufacturing processes.











![](_page_11_Picture_0.jpeg)

## NASA Remembers Neil Armstrong

### 1930 - 2012

MINISTRONG

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### Nuclear Thermal Rocket For Piloted Mars- Asteroid Missions

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Nuclear Electric Propulsion** for Piloted Mars - Asteroid Missions

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

## **JUPITER ICY MOONS ORBITER** Preliminary Government Study Configuration

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

June 12, 2003

#### The Value of Technology Investments Mars Mission Example

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

- Without technology investments, the mass required to initiate a human Mars mission in LEO is approximately twelve times the mass of the International Space Station (ISS)
- Technology investments of the type proposed in the FY2011 budget request are required to put such a mission within reach

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Hayabusa Visiting Asteroid Itokawa

![](_page_35_Picture_1.jpeg)
#### Hayabusa Visiting Asteroid Itokawa



### Hayabusa Visiting Asteroid Itokawa



#### Hayabusa 2 Visiting Asteroid Ryugu





# Economic Analysis of 2-km M-Class Metal Rich Asteroid

Component	Fraction of metal by mass	Mass	Estimated value (\$/kg)	Estimated dollar value (\$ trillions)
Iron	0.89	<b>2.7x10</b> <sup>13</sup>	0.1	3
Nickel	0.10	3.0x10 <sup>12</sup>	3	9
Cobalt	0.005	<b>1.5x10</b> <sup>11</sup>	25	4
Platinum- group metals	15 ppm	4.5x10 <sup>8</sup>	20,000	9
Total value				25

# **Mars Science Laboratory**

















Atlas V 541 launch vehicle, expanded view









#### **Proposed MSL Field Site In Gale Crater**



#### Landing ellipse

- very low elevation (-4.5 km)
- shown here as 25 x 20 km
- alluvium from crater walls
- drive to mound





#### MSL Landing Site Images Gale Crater

Primary Site: 4.49°S, 137.42°E Elevation: -4451 m Target: Layered Sulfates, Phyllosilicates

Image Outlines: HiRISE Images MOC Images





Edge Along Gale Crater Interior Mound, NASA / JPL / University of Arizona









# **Sky Crane Operations**





Mission update from NASA-JPL via telecon













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#### Major gases released from the bedrock called "John Klein" and analyzed by the SAM instruments




## Making Humans a Multiplanetary Species

Elon Musk, SpaceX at the 67<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 09-27-2016













"Our vision is millions of people living and working in space, and New Glenn is a very important step. It won't be the last, of course."

Jeff Bezos, Blue Origin







### Where will we find life next?

If there's some place in our solar system that's secretly harboring life, you told us where you thought it might be hiding. That icy shell didn't stop Europa from taking top honors, although you said you're probably not ready to move there just yet. But once there's a Starbucks, most of us would be game.



#### How willing would you be to live on a planet other than Earth?



I'll wait until a colony has been established somewhere.



As soon as there's a ship with a seat for me, I'm game.



I'd go, but only if I could return to Earth eventually.



Planet Earth is the only one for me.

SOURCE: THINKGEEK.COM

PHOTOS: NASA

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#### 

Jupiter's icy moon has an ocean — and we all know life likes oceans.

#### 

There's ice and water and maybe even microbes in those dunes!

#### 

Saturn's cloud-covered moon has its own atmosphere and methane lakes. Sounds like a haven for alien creepazoids.

#### ● 9.2% ENCELADUS

Saturn's geyser moon seems like the perfect place for life to take root.

#### 

The planet's clouds could be the perfect home for hardy, blimp-like creatures.

#### 2.1% venus

Sure it rains sulfuric acid and the days are super hot, but there could be life lurking under the Venusian clouds.

### How willing would you be to live on a planet other than Earth?



I'll wait until a colony has been established somewhere.

SOURCE: THINKGEEK.COM

27.4%

As soon as there's a ship with a seat for me, I'm game.



I'd go, but only if I could return to Earth eventually.



Planet Earth is the only one for me.

PHOTOS: NASA

# New Horizons Team Finds Haze, Flowing Ice on Pluto

Press Conference, July 24, 2015

Flowing ice and a surprising extended haze are among the newest discoveries from NASA's New Horizons mission, which reveal distant Pluto to be an icy world of wonders.





























#### **Changes in Pluto's Surface Pressure**



Pluto's atmospheric pressure in micro bars (millionths of a bar; 1 bar = 14.5 p

#### **Changes in Pluto's Surface Pressure**



Pluto's atmospheric pressure in micro bars (millionths of a bar; 1 bar = 14.5 psi). New Horizons REX measured 10 microbars


























## With advanced propulsion, one must always look to the past and look to the future.

