

Astromaterials Research &  
Exploration Science (ARES)

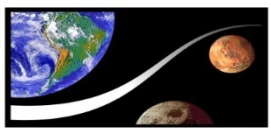


# Asteroids, Dwarf Planets, and Two Weeks in a Box

**Kristen John, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
NASA Johnson Space Center

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015



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# Kristen's SSGF Experience



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



STEWARDSHIP SCIENCE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

- 2009-2013
- Properties of Materials Under Extreme Conditions
- Practicum: LLNL (2011)
  - Bruce Remington & Hye-Sook Park
  - Omega Laser (LLE)
  - Strength of Ta, Fe



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# Grad School



- Aerospace Engineering
- Ph.D. Caltech, 2014  
M.S. Caltech, 2010  
B.S. UT-Austin, 2008
- Advisor: G. "Ravi"  
Ravichandran



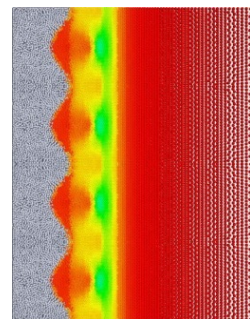
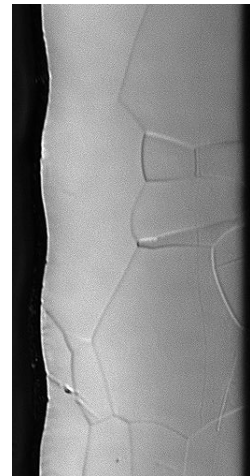
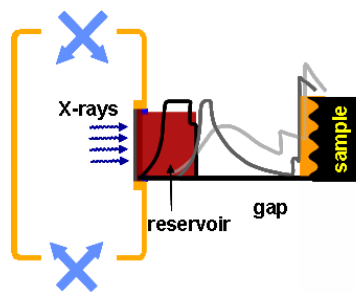
Strength of Tantalum at High Pressures  
through Richtmyer-Meshkov Laser  
Compression Experiments and Simulations



Kristen John  
Advisor: G. Ravichandran  
Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013



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Goal: Strength of tantalum at high pressures

Experiments

Simulations

Validation

Omega Laser Experiments

Eureka Code with Ta Material Model

-Measure of strength at high pressures for Ta

-Validate experiments & model  
-Run simulations to aid in design of experiments  
-Predict material behavior

Observational Parameter: Richtmyer-Meshkov (RM) instability

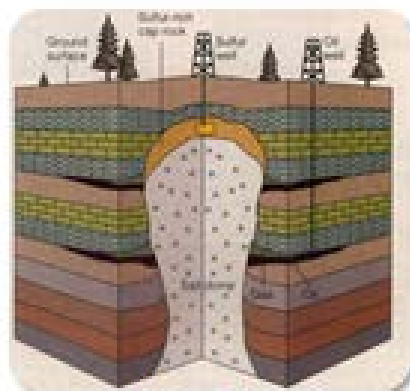




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**Hypervelocity impacts**  
space shielding, ballistics

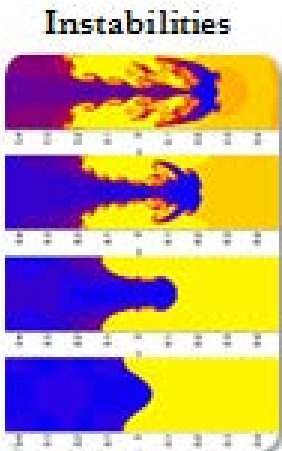


**Geology**  
seismology, salt domes

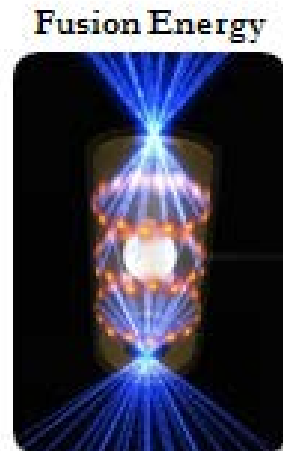


**Astrophysics**  
planetary impacts, bodies

**Military**  
explosives, ballistics,  
nuclear technology

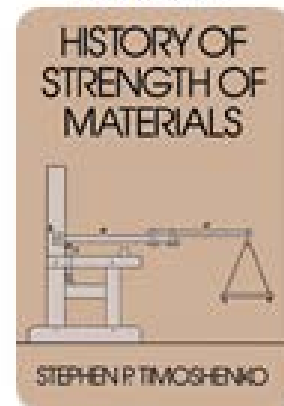


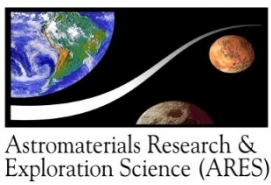
**Instabilities**



**Fusion Energy**

**Strength**  
new measurement,  
high pressures





# A Year in the Life of a Post-doc



# NASA

**POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM**

Administered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities

- The Path to NPP
- A **Day** in the Life of a Post-doc?



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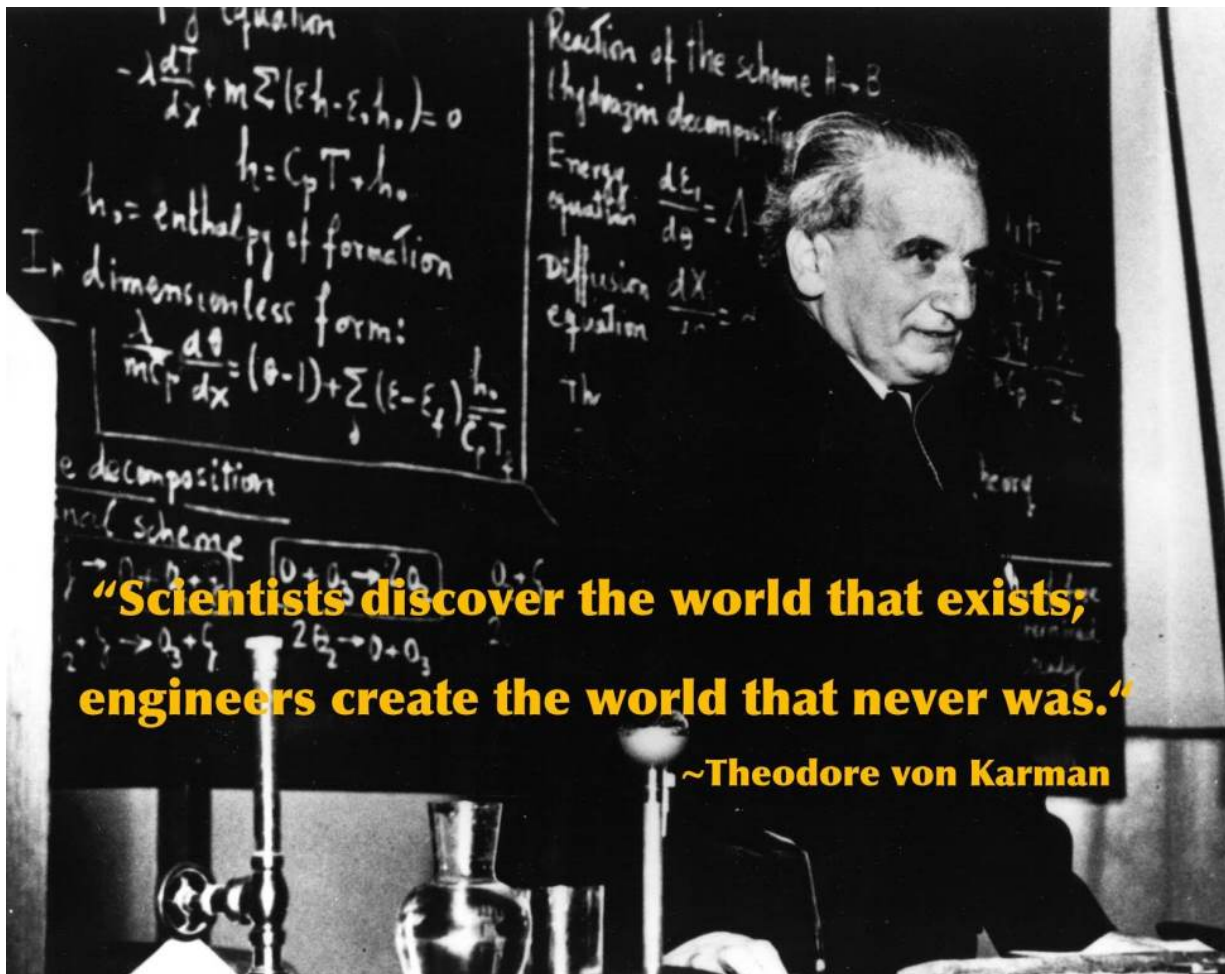
# An Engineer Among Scientists

(in a science group among engineers)



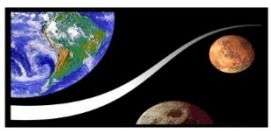
## SURVIVAL

When you are in deep trouble,  
say nothing, and try to look like  
you know what you're doing.



**"Scientists discover the world that exists;  
engineers create the world that never was."**

**~Theodore von Karman**



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# ASTEROIDS

...are nature's way of asking:



“How’s that space  
program coming along?”

© 2012 Aaron Williams www.doggoexpress.com  
offworldesigns.com 2012





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# ASTEROIDS

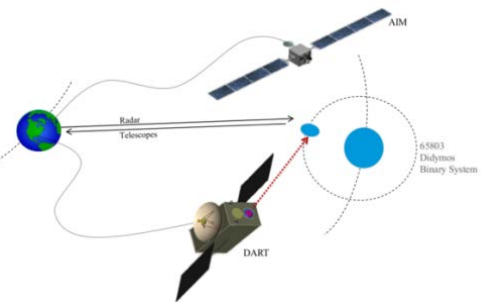
...are nature's way of asking:



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© 2012 Aaron Williams www.doggoexpress.com  
offworlddesigns.com 2012

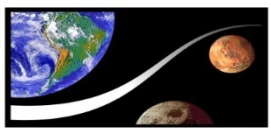
**AIDA**



**ARM**



surface properties,  
proximity operations



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# Asteroid Impact & Deflection Assessment (AIDA)



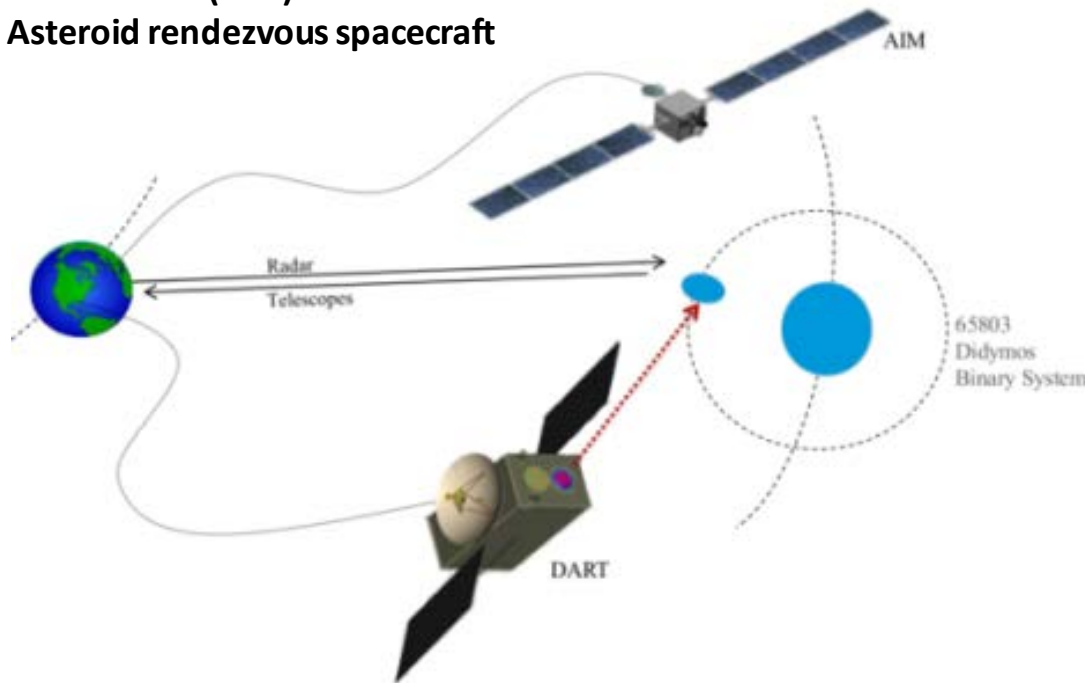
**AIDA = AIM & DART**

**Asteroid Impact Mission  
(ESA)**

**Asteroid rendezvous spacecraft**

**Double Asteroid Redirection Test  
(NASA/APL)**

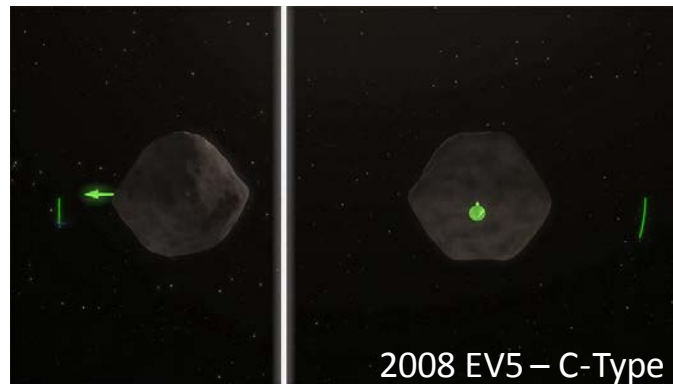
**An asteroid impactor**



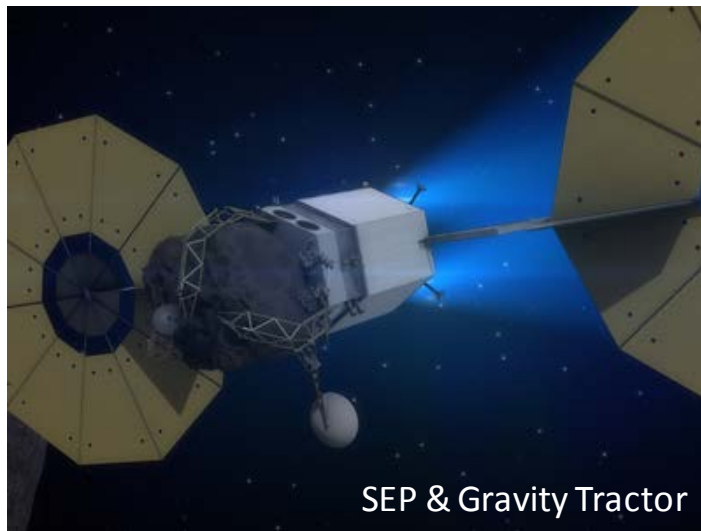
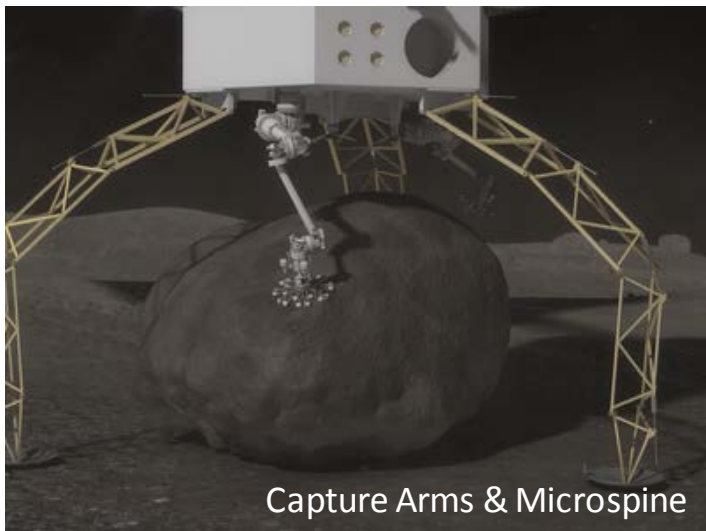
- Test ability to perform a spacecraft impact on a potentially hazardous near-Earth asteroid
- Measure and characterize the deflection caused by the impact



## Asteroid Redirect Mission (ARM)



1. Visit an asteroid
2. Redirect its trajectory
3. Bring boulder off the surface back to lunar orbit



“Gravity Tractor” planetary defense technique on a hazardous-size asteroid

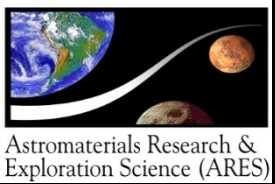
Leverages the mass of the spacecraft to impart a gravitational force on the asteroid, slowly altering the asteroid’s trajectory



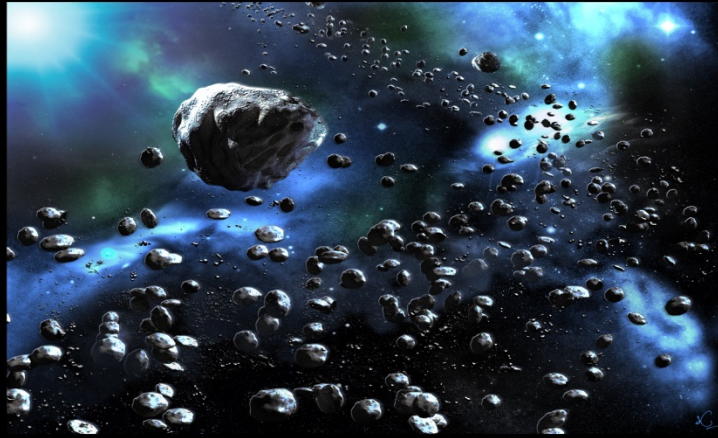
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# Investigating Ceres



# What are asteroids?



rocky, airless, small,  
irregular bodies



# Where are asteroids?

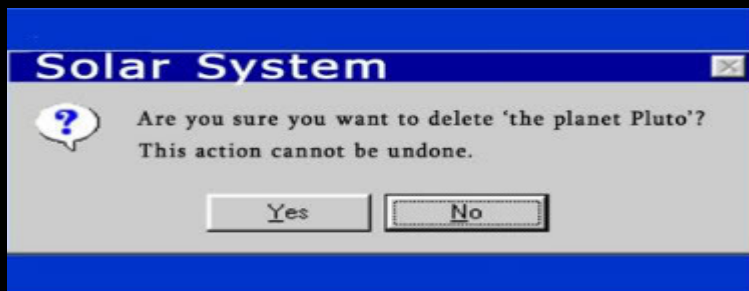
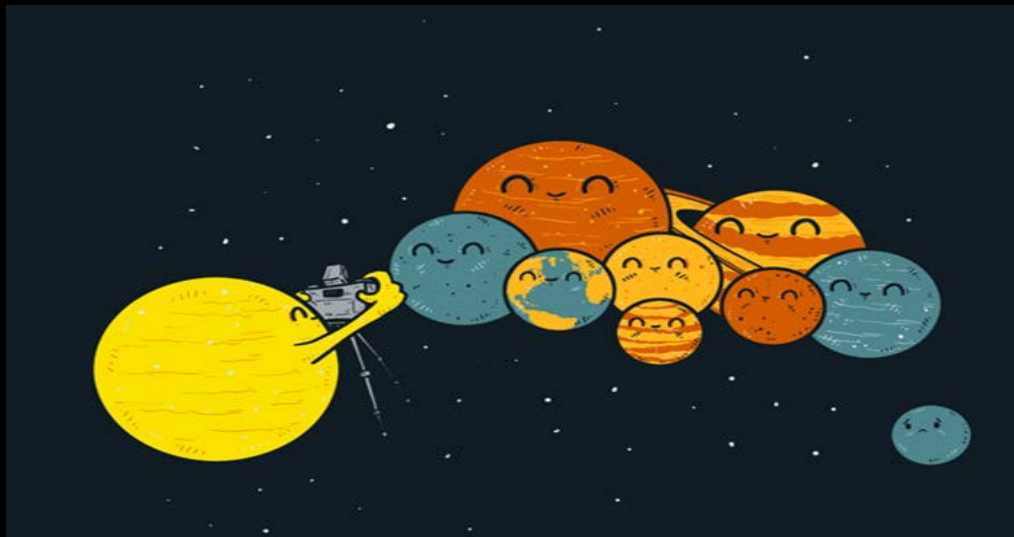


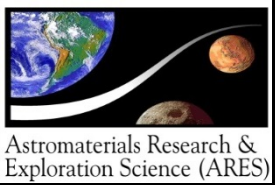
Near-Earth,  
Main Belt,  
Trojans, KBO's





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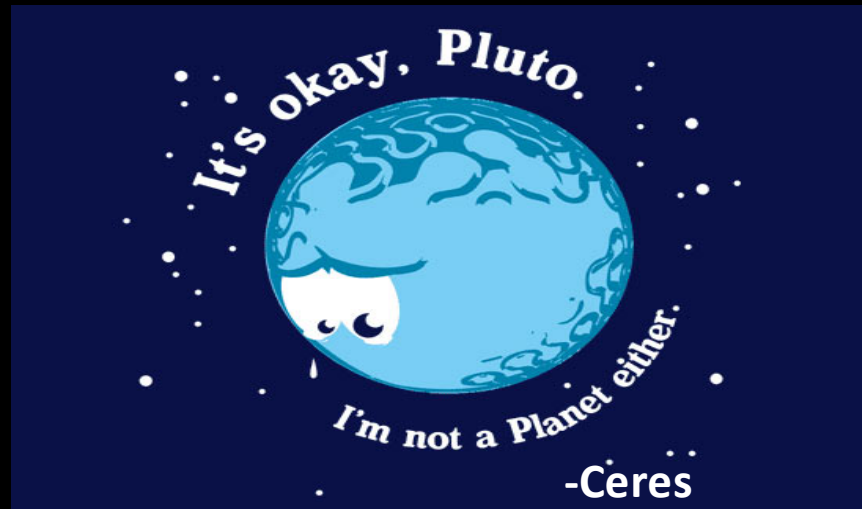




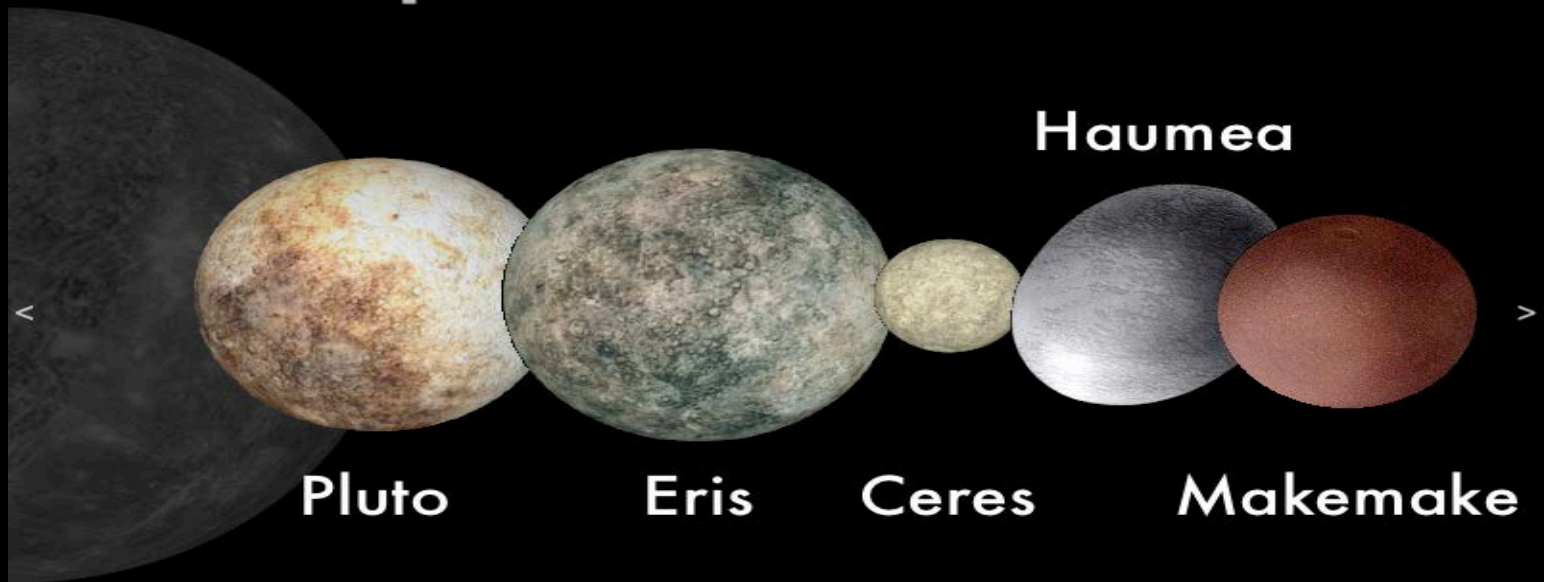
# Dwarf Planet Requirements



1. Orbits the sun.
2. Has enough mass to assume a nearly round shape.
3. Has not cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.
4. Is not a moon.



# Dwarf planets



Pluto

Eris

Ceres

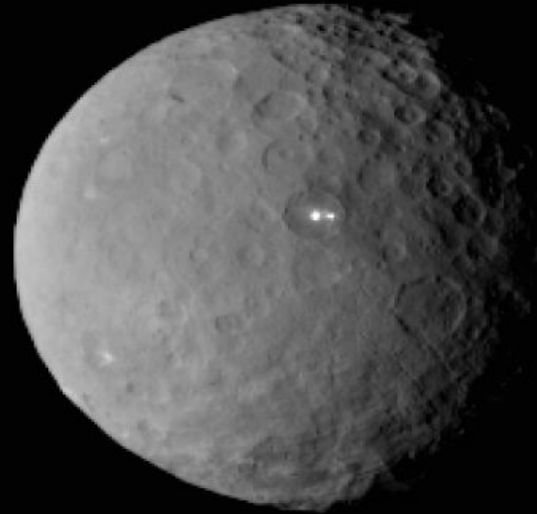
Makemake

(Mercury)

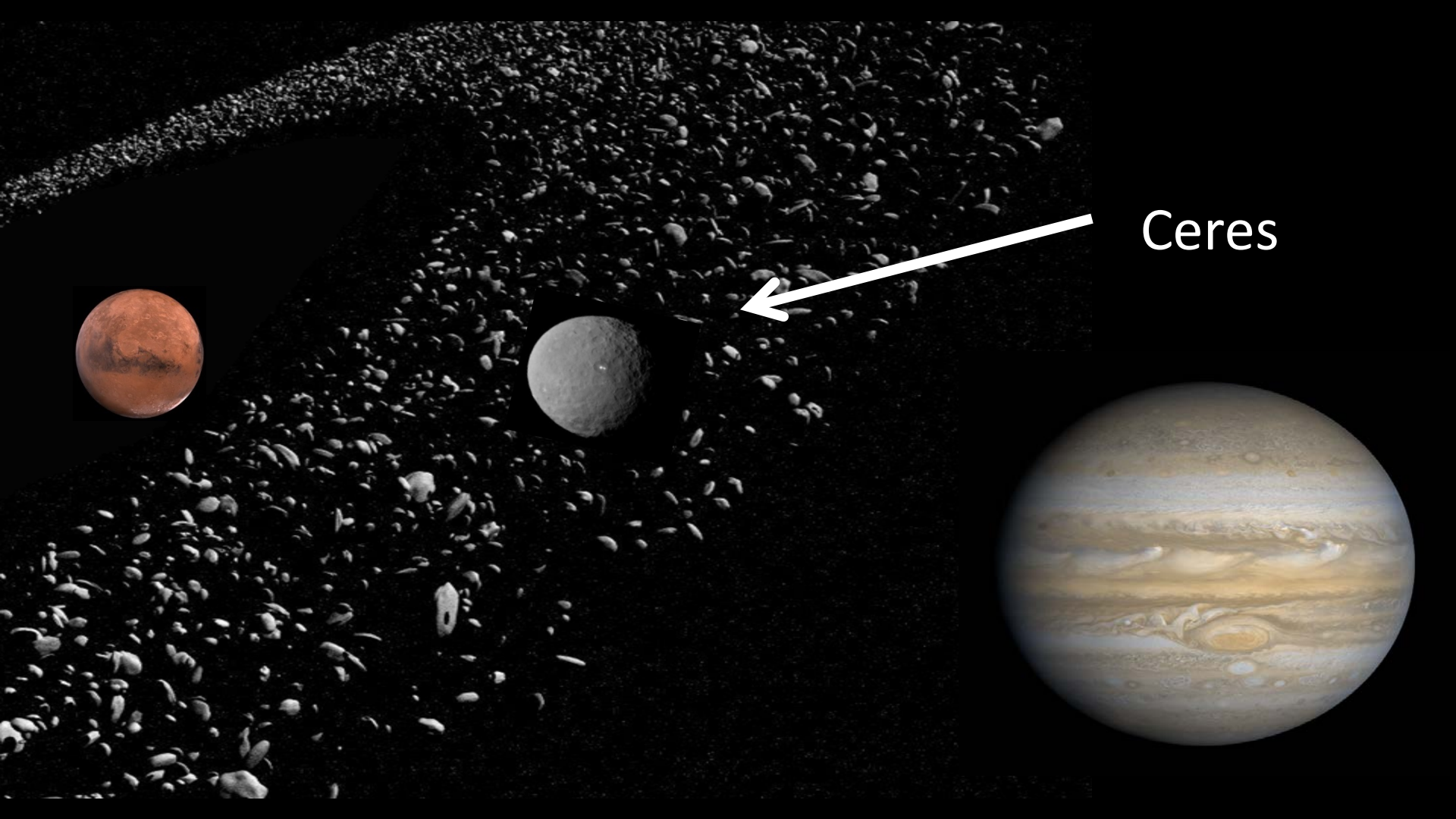
(comparison only)

(Sources: [http://sos.noaa.gov/datasets/solar\\_system/mercury.html](http://sos.noaa.gov/datasets/solar_system/mercury.html),  
<http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2006/16/image/d%5D>,  
[http://arcadiastreet.com/cgvistas/ceres\\_107a.htm](http://arcadiastreet.com/cgvistas/ceres_107a.htm))

- 1801: Planet? Asteroid.
- 2006: Dwarf Planet!



1 Ceres



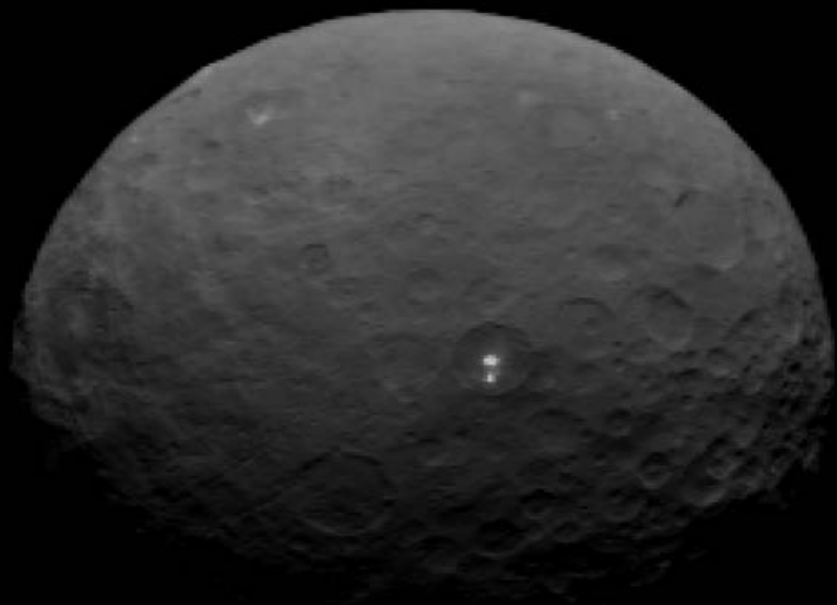
Ceres



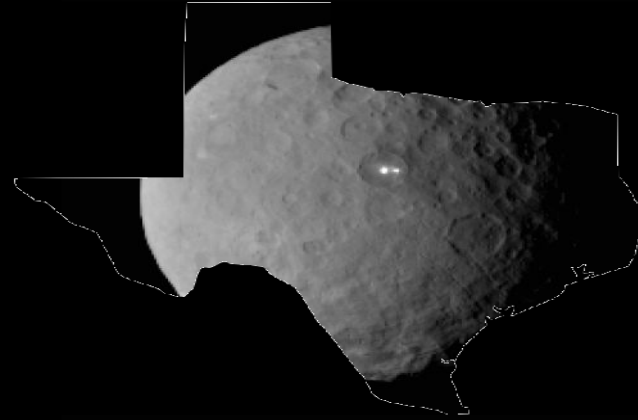
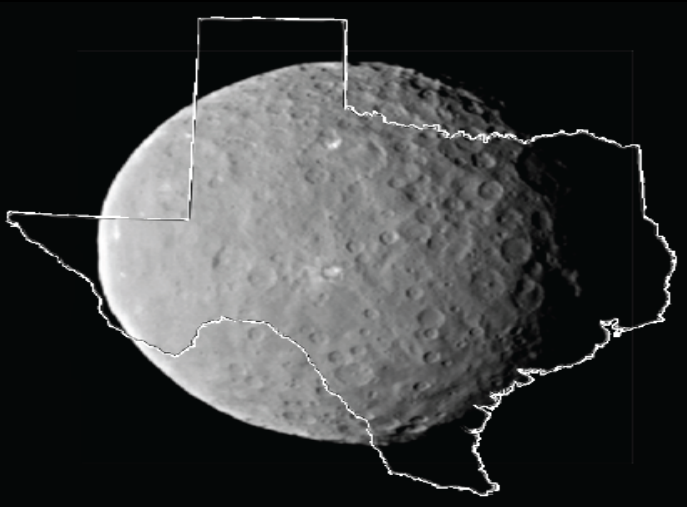


Ceres

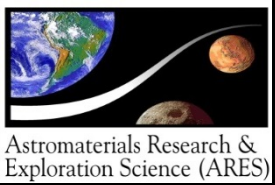




# How Big is Ceres?



- Diameter of Ceres = 950 km (590 miles)
- Texas = 1244 km wide (773 miles)

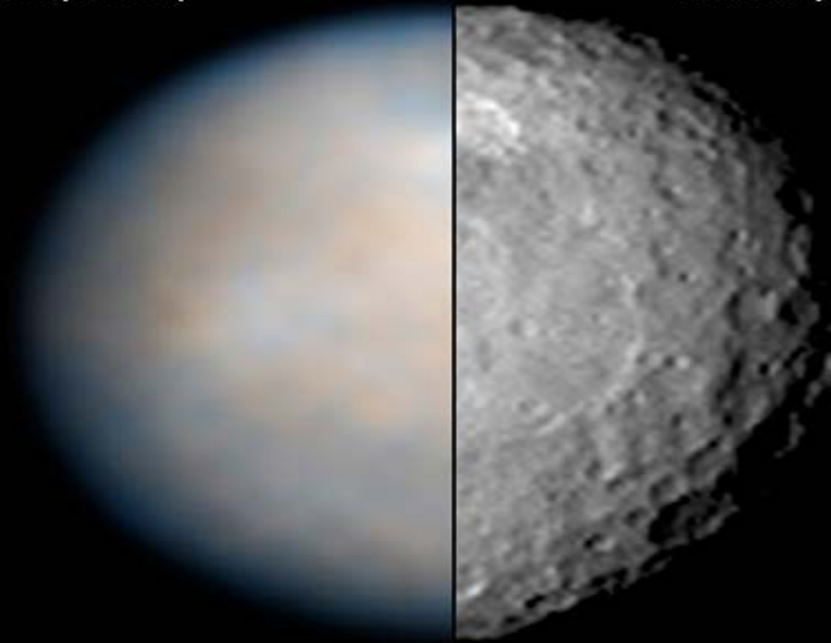


# Ceres Resolution



Hubble (2004)

Dawn (2015)







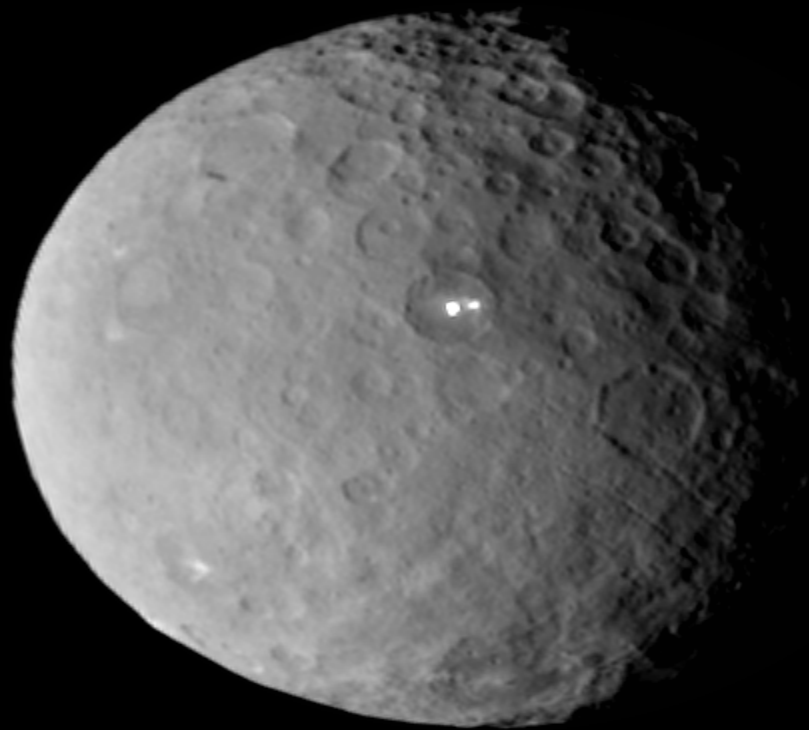
**1 Cererian Day = 9 Hours**

**1 Cererian Year = 4.6 Earth Years**



**Only Dwarf Planet in Inner Solar System**  
**Biggest body in the main belt**

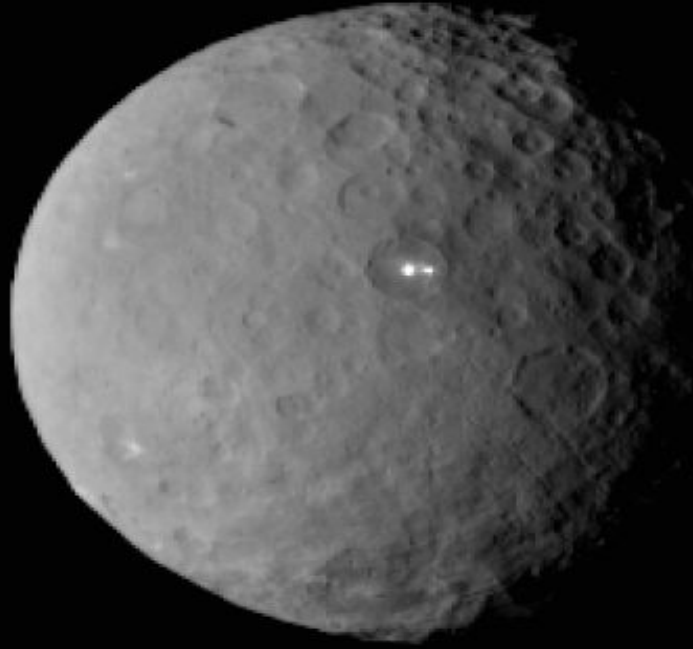
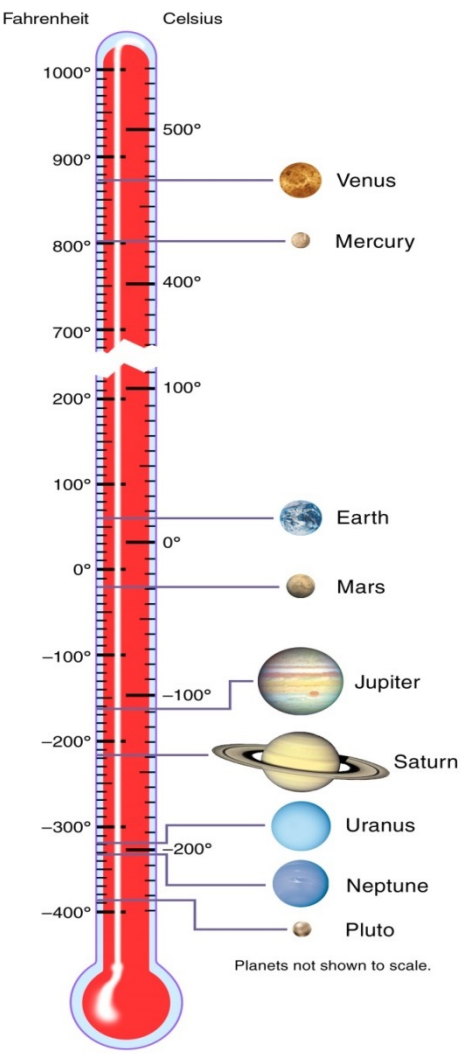








# How cold is Ceres?



-135 °F

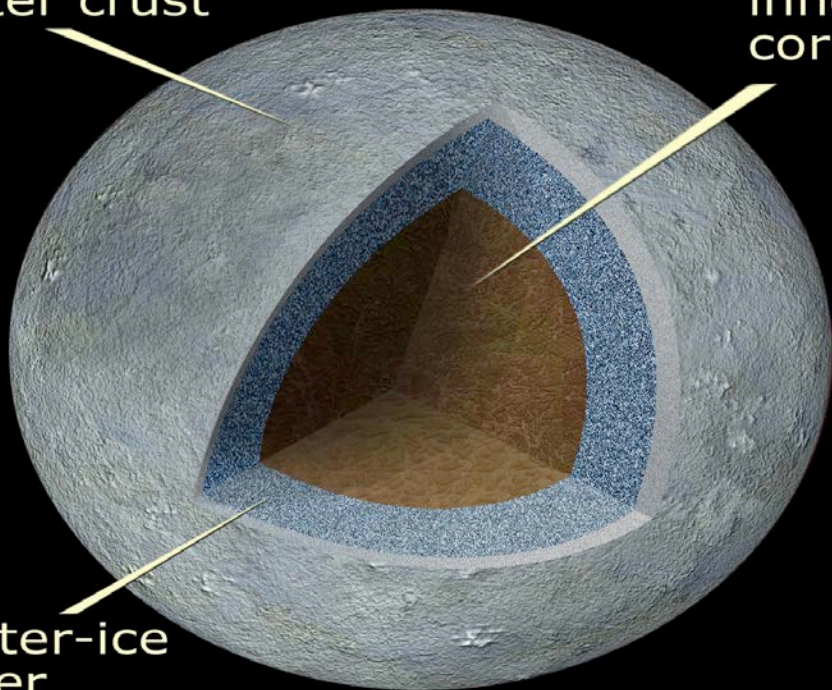
-225 °F

# What's it made of?

Thin, dusty  
outer crust

Rocky  
inner  
core

Water-ice  
layer



- Reflectance Spectral Class C
- Carbonaceous content (probably)
- icy crust?
- clays, iron oxides, carbonaceous solids
- high salt content?
- 17-27% Water
- Density = 2.1 g/cc



# Water Plumes

- liquid source underground?
- exposed water ice?



Artist's Depiction



Herschel Space Telescope

# The White Spots!





Sublimation?  
Vent or crack?  
~~Alien solar array?~~  
Water plumes?

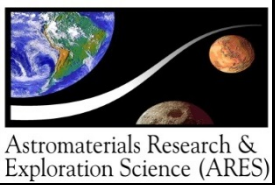


Ice volcano?  
Ice-filled craters?  
Salt deposits?  
Exposed water ice?

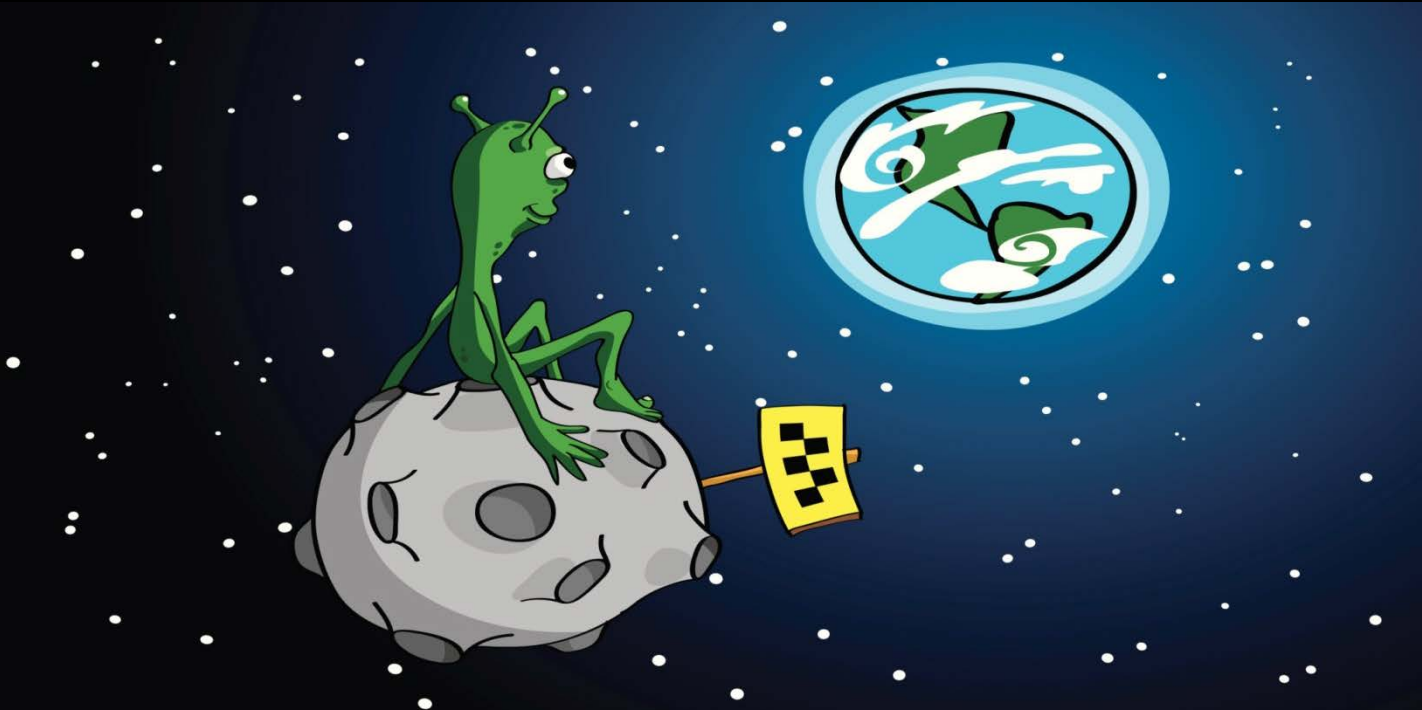
Reflective minerals?  
Cryovolcanism?

Ice plumes?

“Until Dawn gets a closer look over the next few months, it’s anyone’s guess what those spots could be.” – Dawn Mission Team

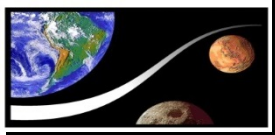


# Is Ceres Habitable?



**Habitability is:** “...extended regions of liquid water, conditions favorable for the assembly of complex organic molecules, and energy sources to sustain metabolism.”

– NASA Astrobiology Roadmap, 2008



# Why Ceres?



Is it normal?

Poorly understood

Carbonaceous?

Primordial Water

Meteorites?

Transport organics?

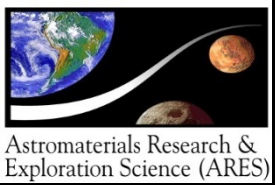
Icy World Nearby

Structure?

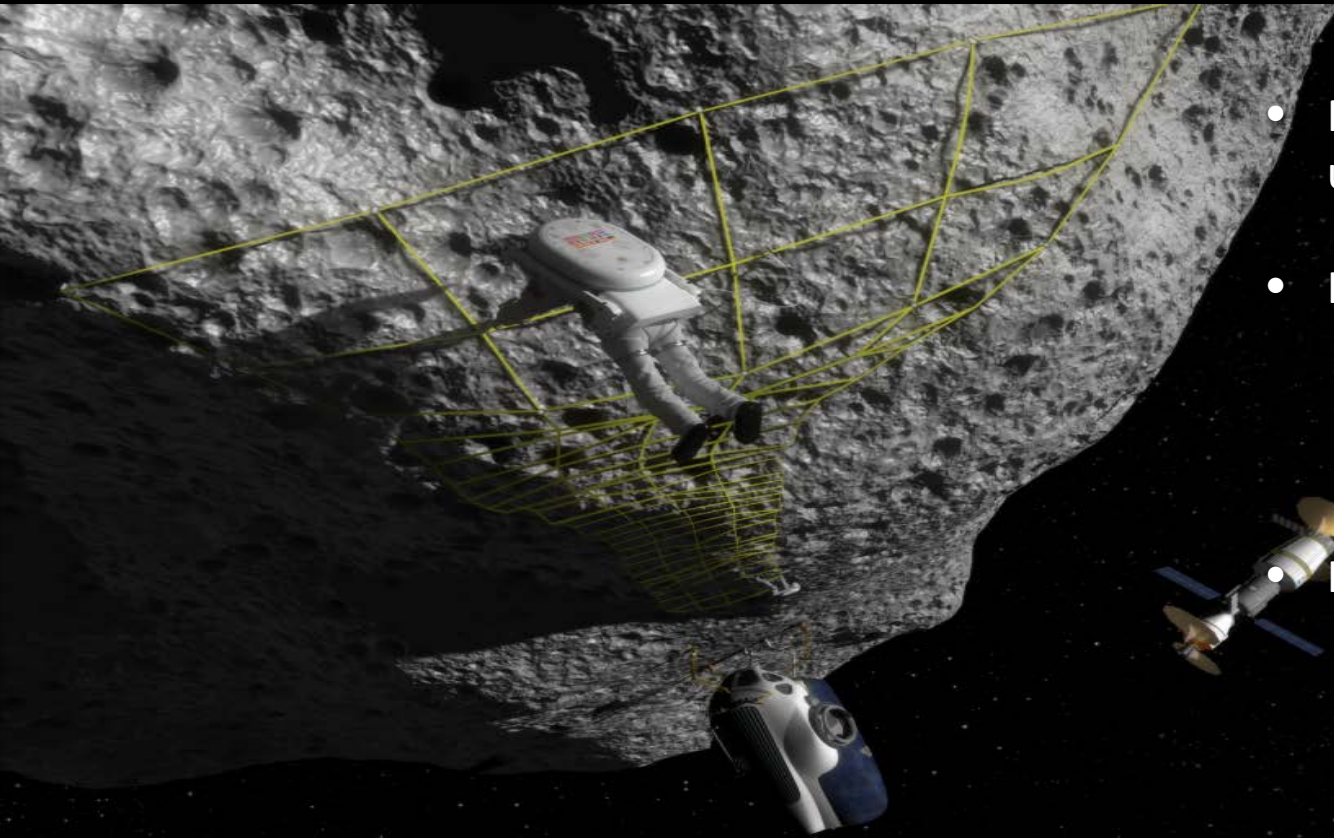
Composition?

Low Escape Velocity



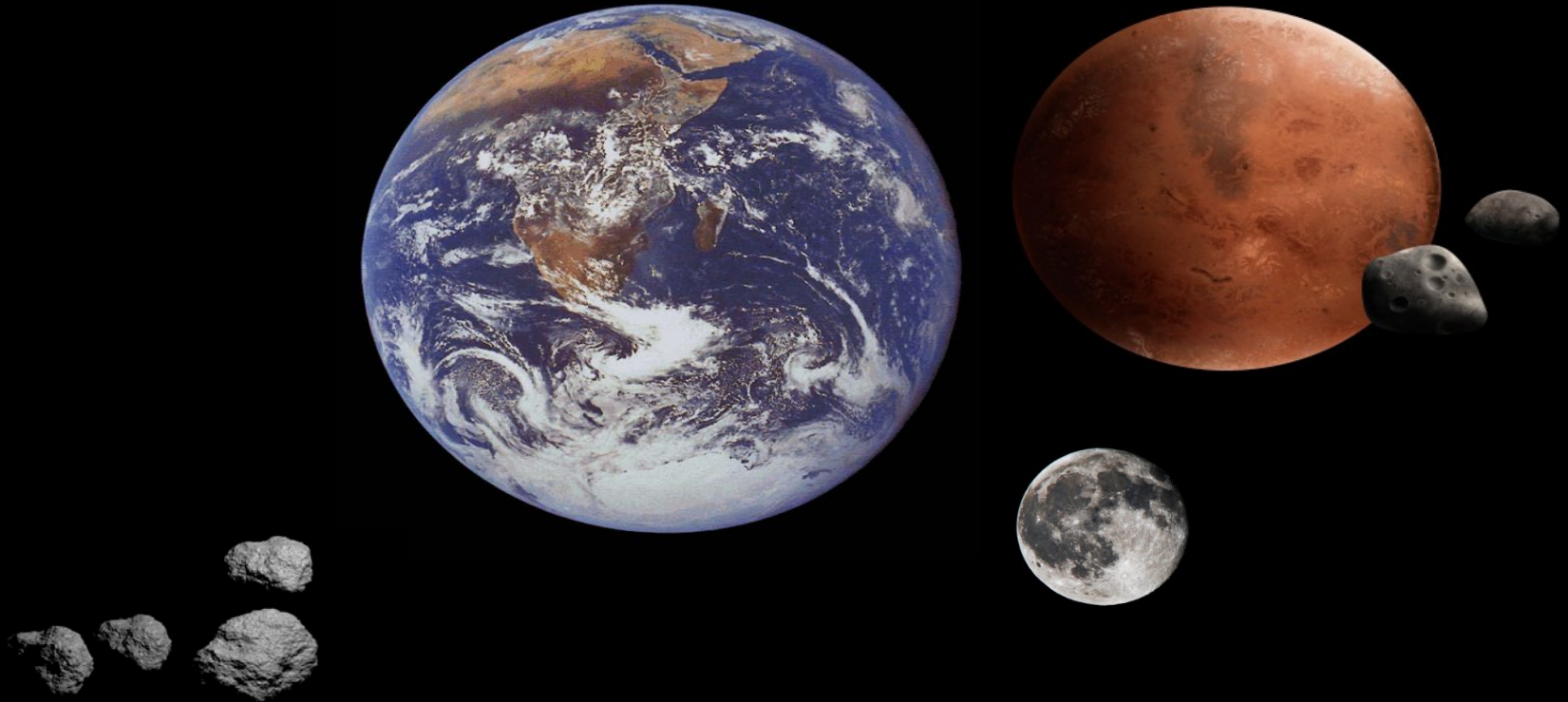


# Potential Mission to Ceres

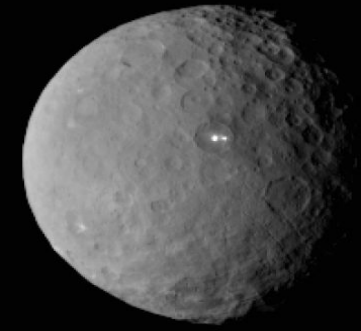


- Rover, lander, manned or unmanned, sample return
- Human Exploration Target
  - Exobiology
  - History
  - Resources
- Human/Spacecraft Friendly
  - 9 Hour Rotation
  - Not too hot!
  - Not too cold!
  - Surface Ops
  - Distance from Sun

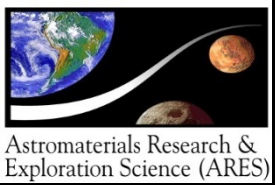
# Potential Human Targets



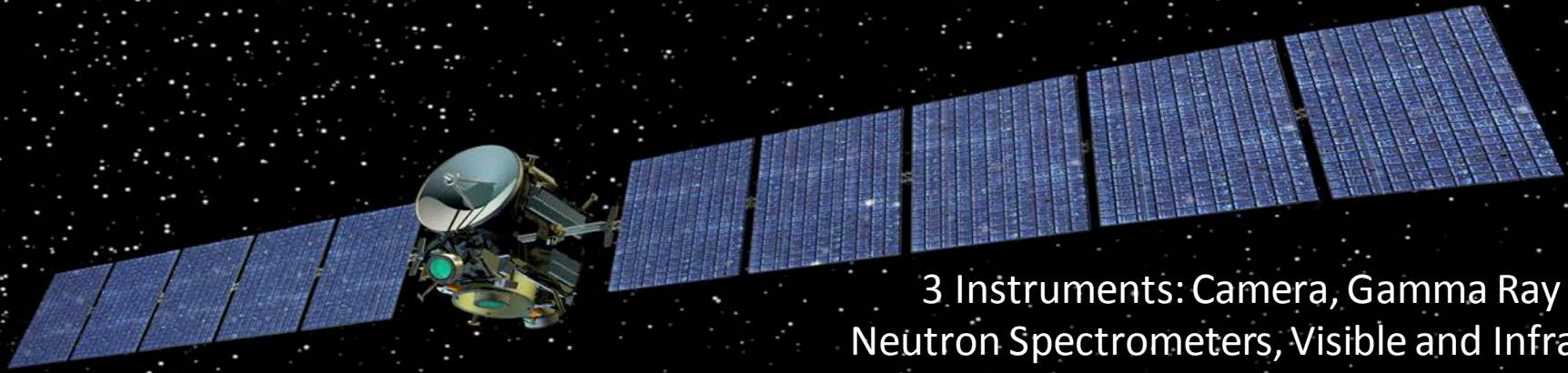
**Add Ceres to the List!**  
**Not to Scale!**





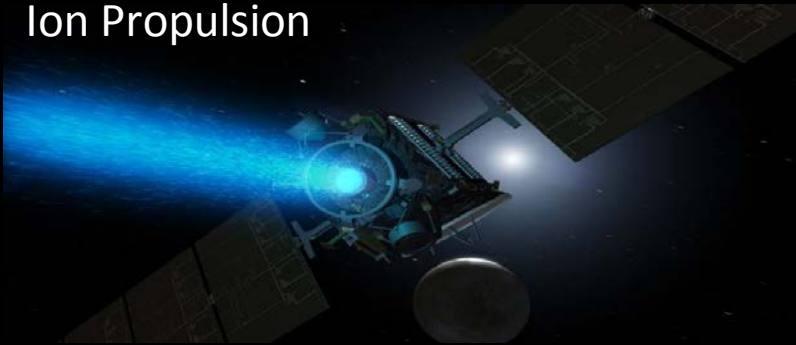


# The Dawn Spacecraft

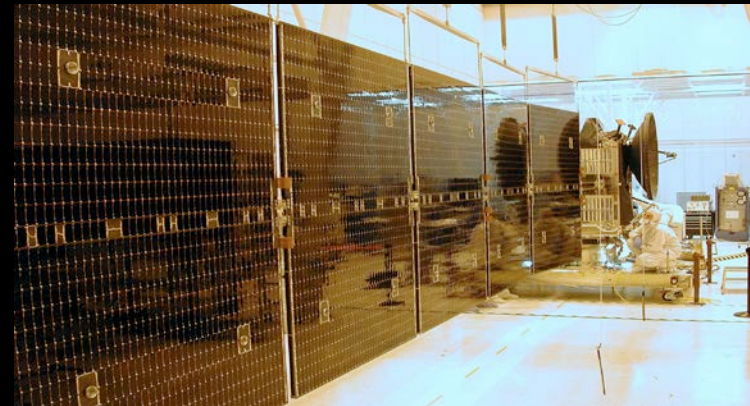


3 Instruments: Camera, Gamma Ray and Neutron Spectrometers, Visible and Infrared Mapping Spectrometers

Ion Propulsion



NASA's Largest Interplanetary Spacecraft





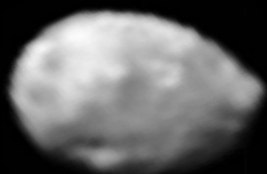
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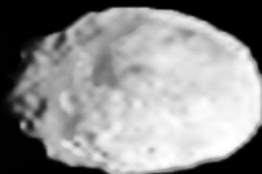
# Vesta



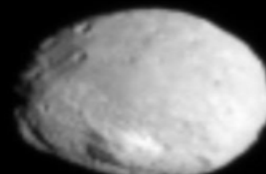
414,000,000 km  
2007  
HST



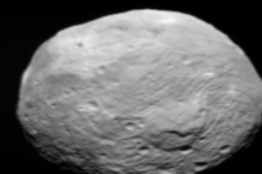
265,000 Km  
June 6, 2011



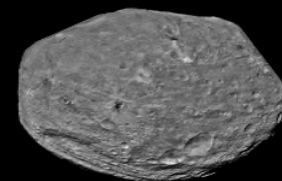
152,000 Km  
June 24, 2011



100,000 Km  
July 1, 2011



41,000 Km  
July 9, 2011

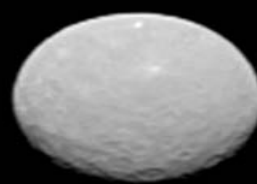


5,000 Km  
July 24, 2011

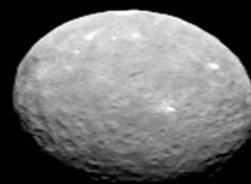
# Ceres



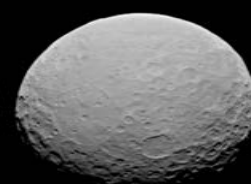
414,000,000 Km  
January 24, 2004  
Hubble Space Telescope



145,000 Km  
February 4, 2015

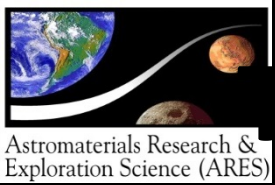


83,000 Km  
February 12, 2015

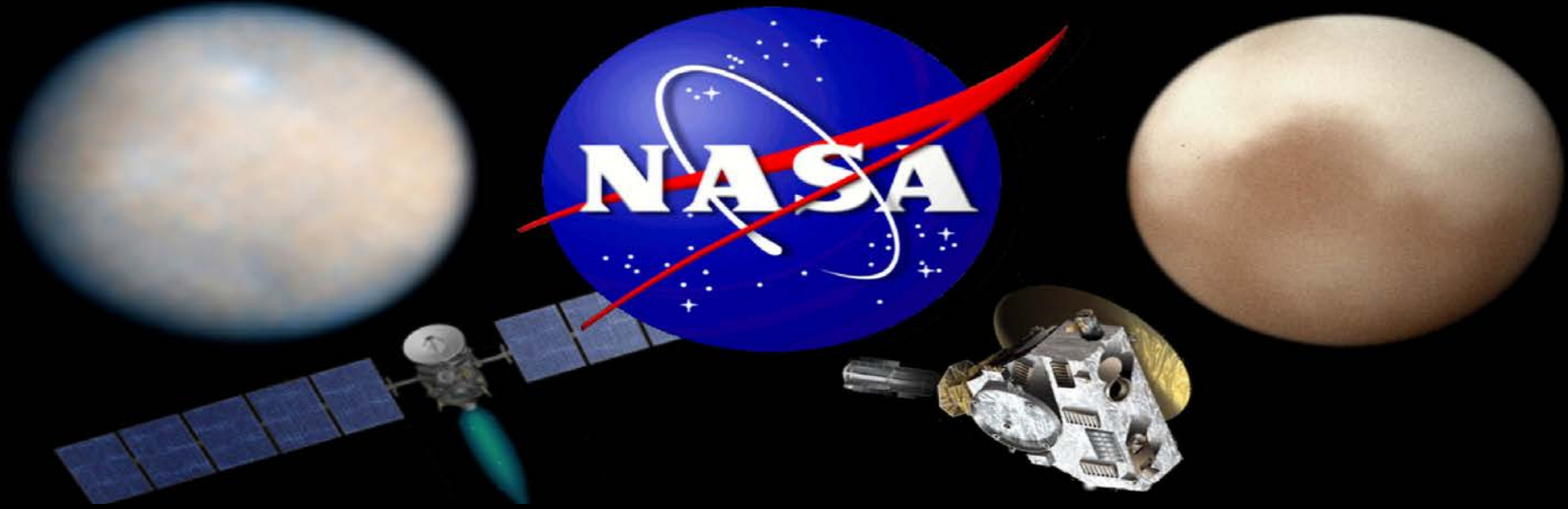


46,000 Km  
February 19, 2015





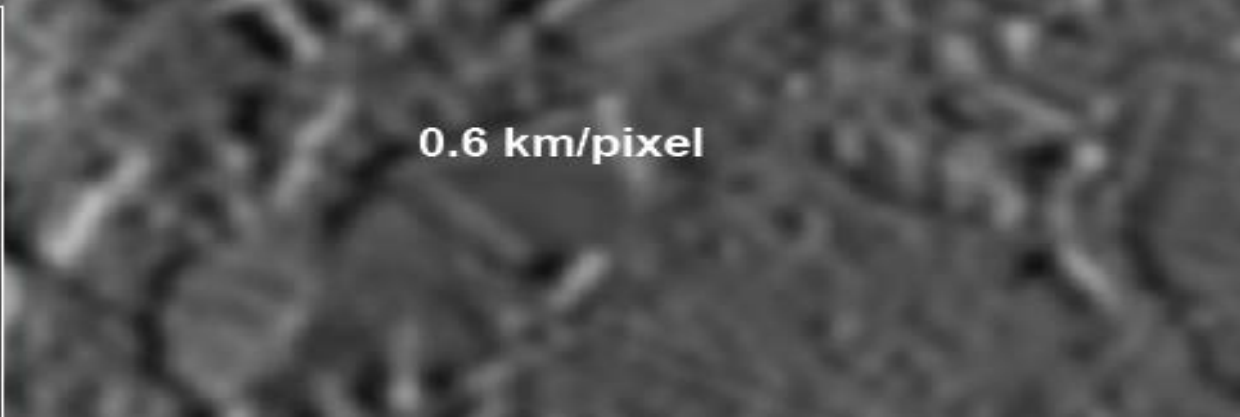
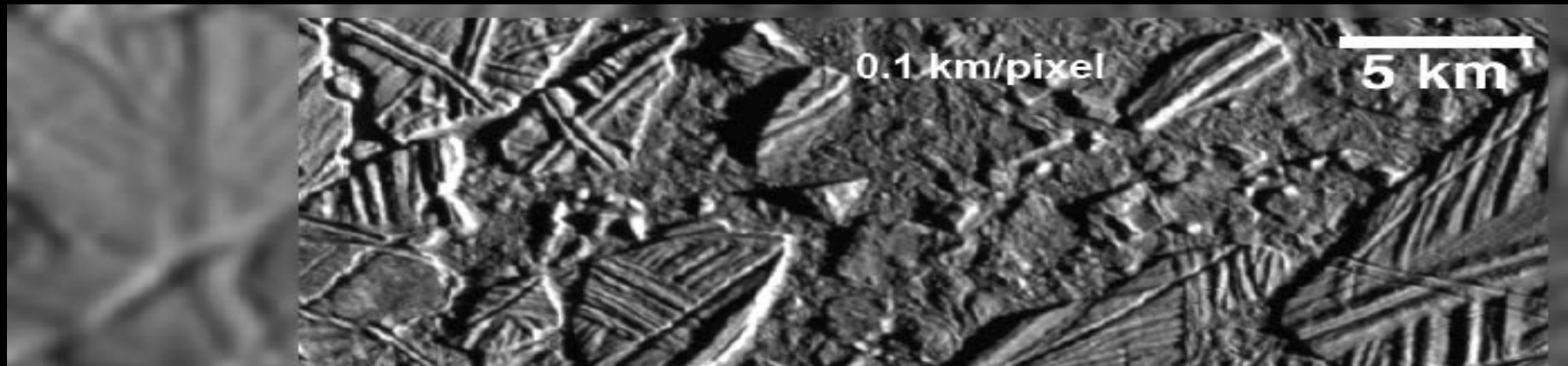
2015

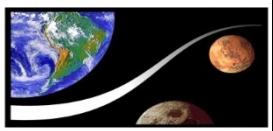




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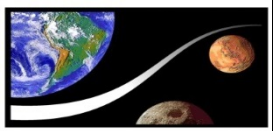
# Pluto Resolution



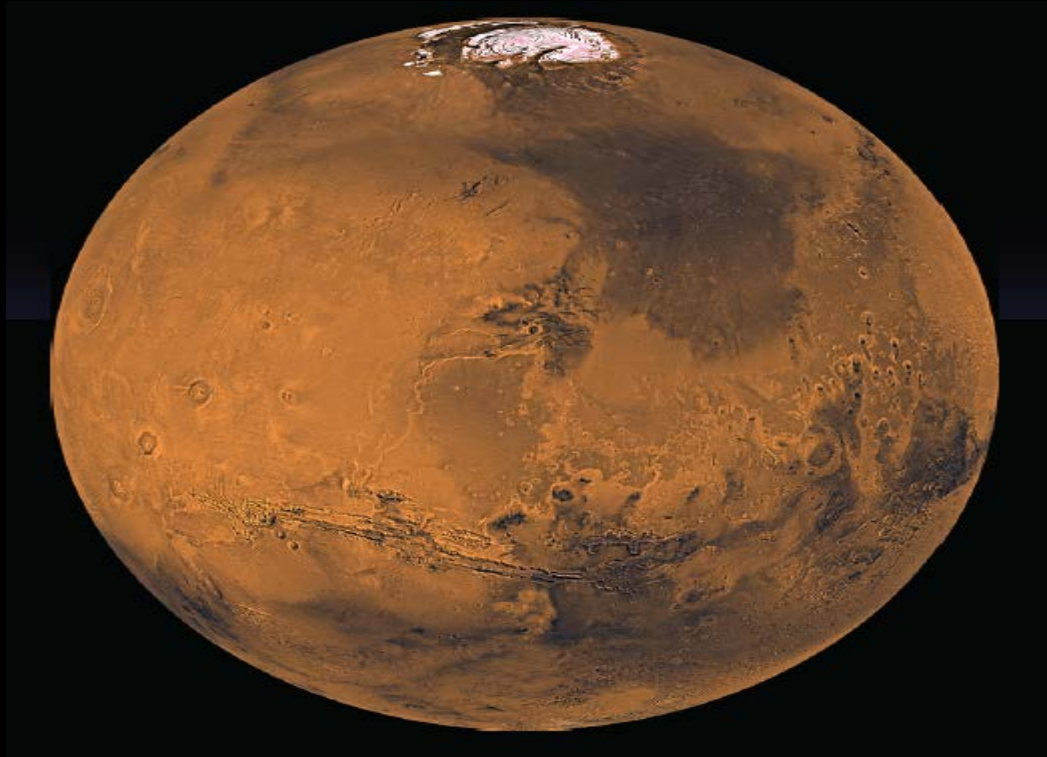


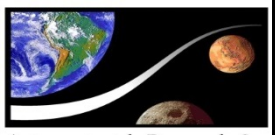
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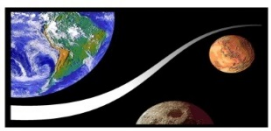




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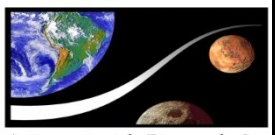






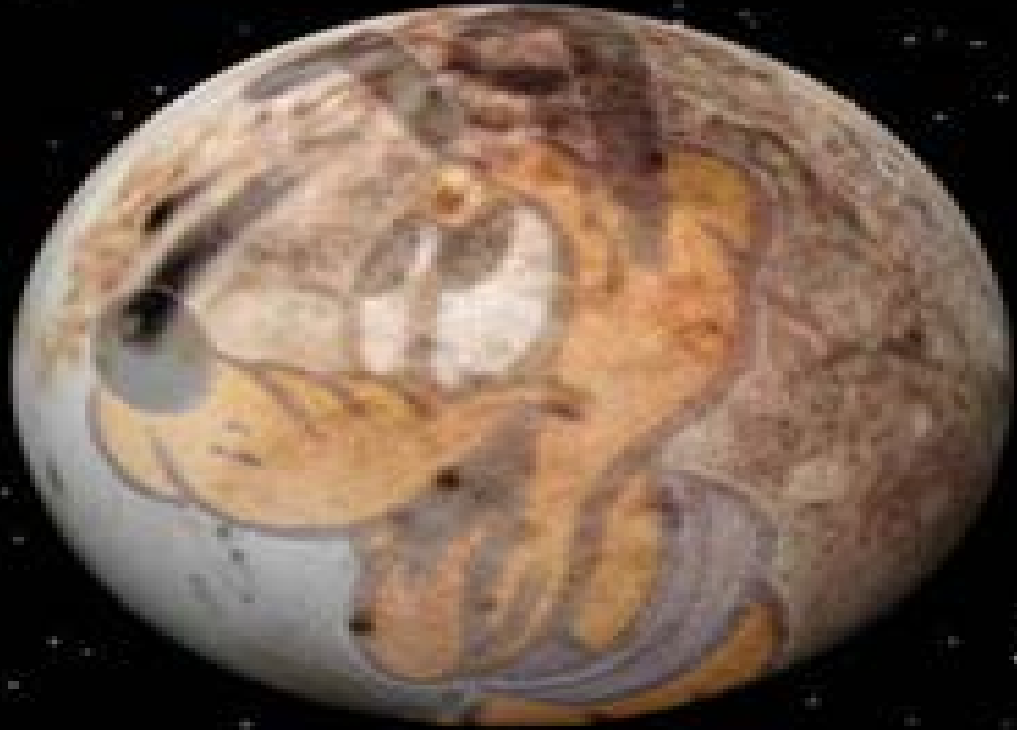
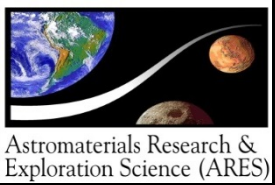
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Stay Tuned...July 14th



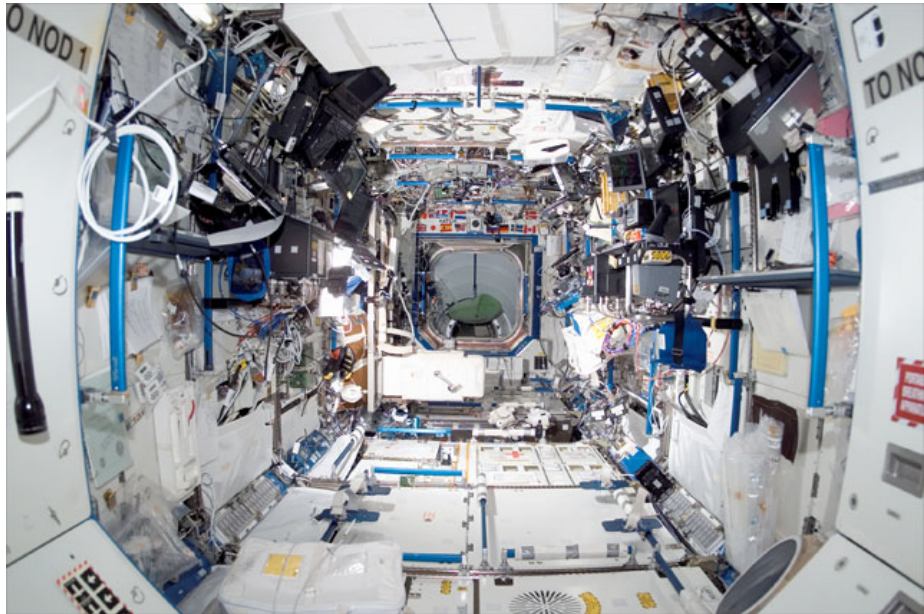
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# Experiments on the Space Station



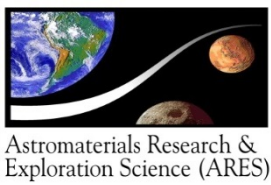
# International Space Station



Orbit height: 400 km

Speed: 7.66 km/s

15.54 orbits/day



# SpaceX



Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015





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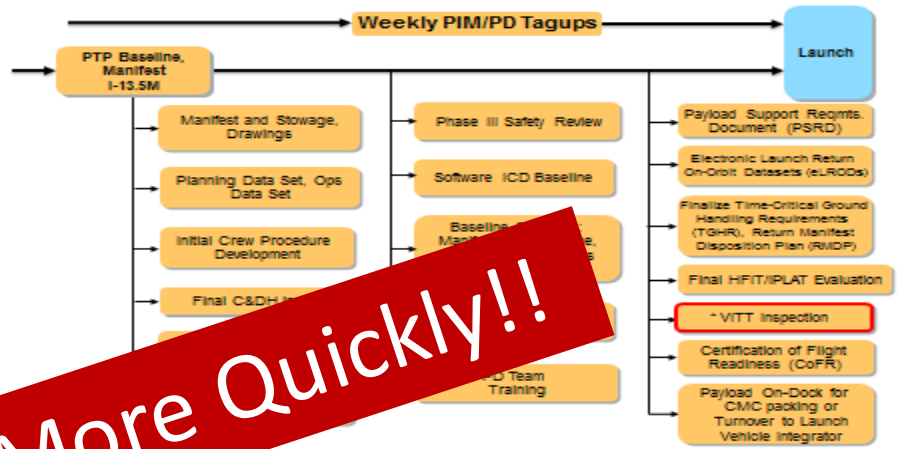
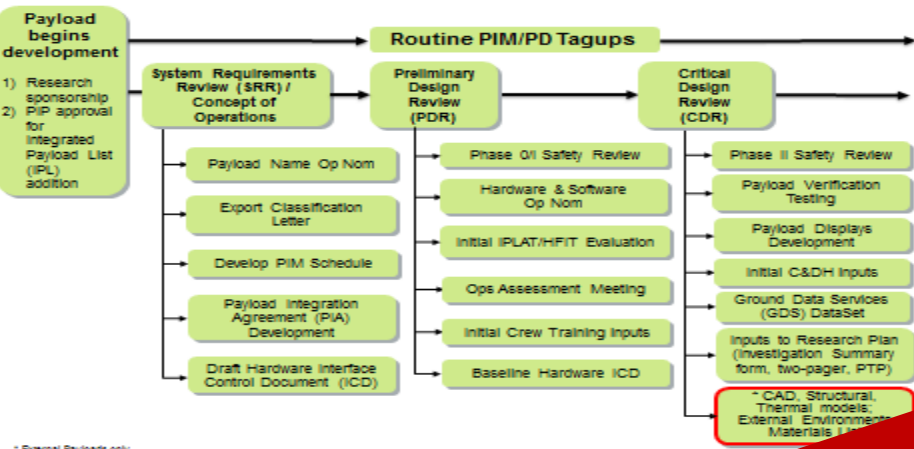
WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE **MOON**  
IN THIS DECADE AND  
DO THE OTHER THINGS  
NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE EASY  
BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE HARD

*John F. Kennedy*



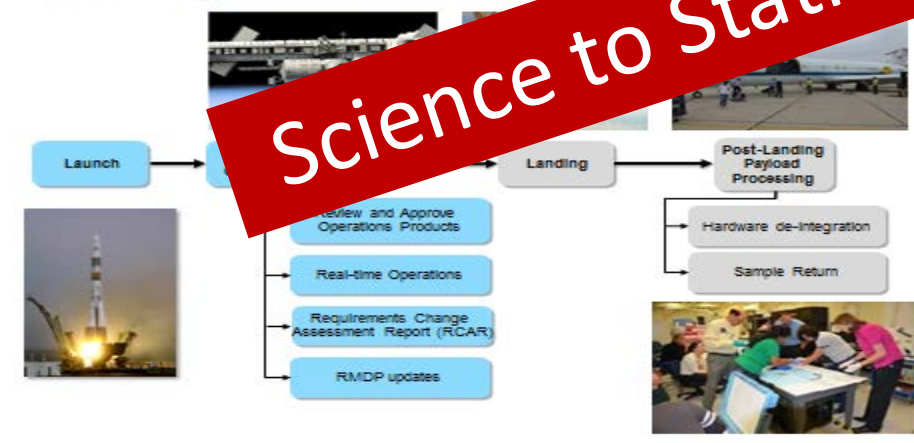
# Strategic Timeframe Overview

# Tactical Timeframe Overview

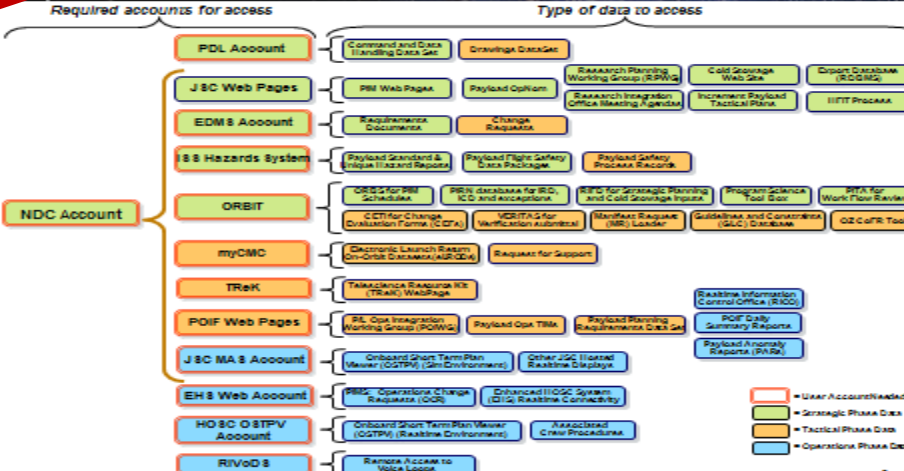


Science to Station More Quickly!!

# Operations Timeframe Overview



# Data Set Tools / Websites





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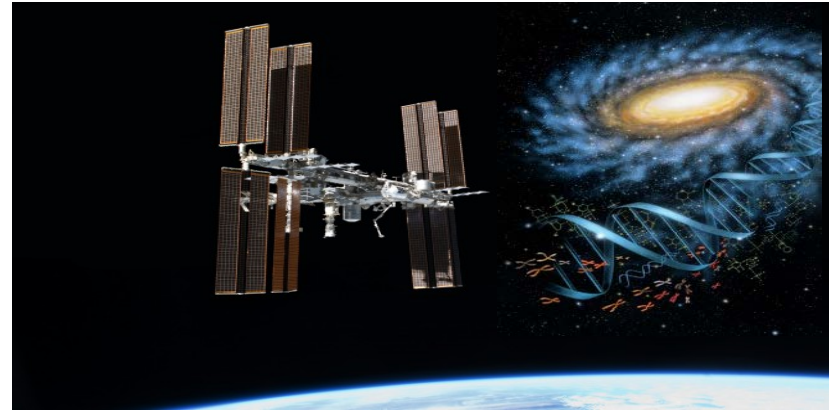


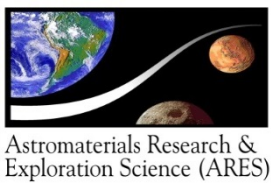
# DNA Sequencing in Space

# DNA Sequencing in Space



- Test a small COTS DNA sequencer in microgravity on the ISS
  - Test the basic functionality by comparing ISS sequencing results of pre-determined samples to ground results
  - Evaluate crew operability and potential for degrees of autonomy

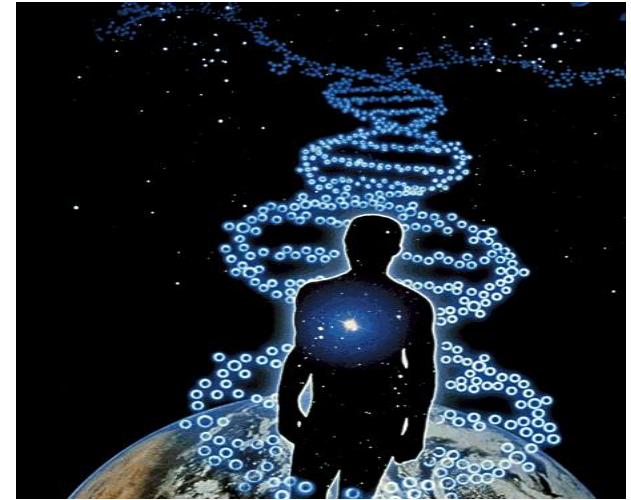




# Why Sequence in Space?

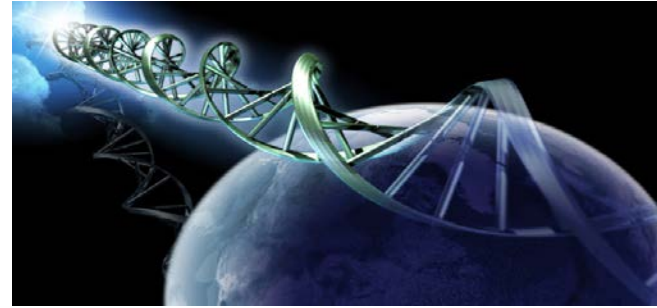


- Operational environmental monitoring
- Research
- Med Ops
- Functional testing for integration into robotics for Mars exploration mission
- Microbiology capabilities on ISS



# Benefits to In-flight Sequencing

- Sequencing on the ISS can inform real-time decisions (remediation strategies, research, med ops, etc.)
- Unlike other technologies, sequencing is not limited to the detection of specific targets, but rather will provide data on the entirety of a sample
- Reduce down mass (sample return for environmental monitoring, crew health, etc.)
- Real-time analysis can influence medical intervention
- Support astrobiology science investigations
  - Technology superiorly suited to *in situ* nucleic acid-based life detection

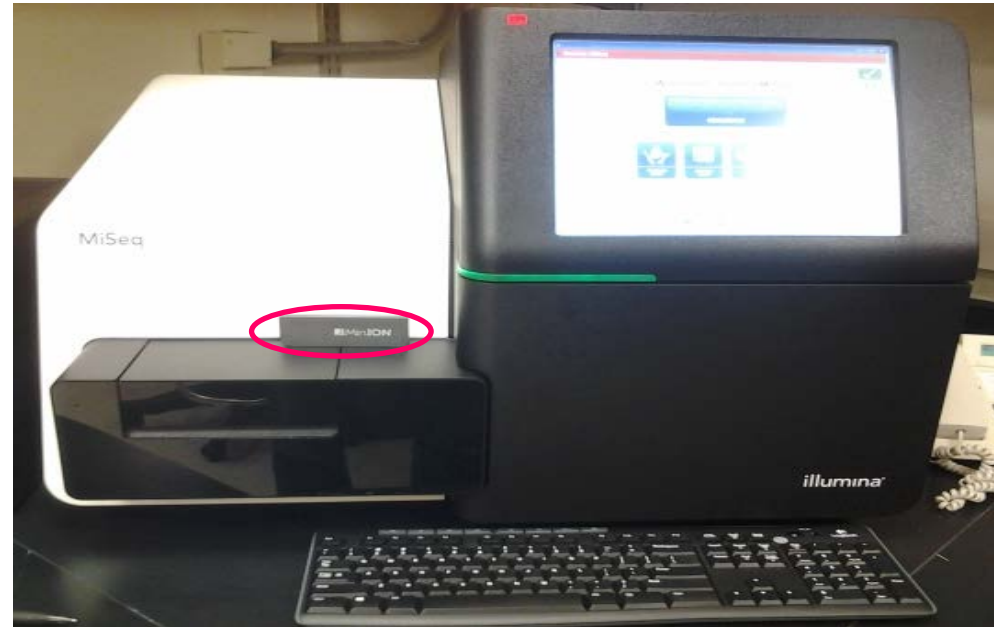




# What are we flying?

## Oxford Nanopore *MinION*

- A miniaturized, portable device for electronic single-molecule sensing
- Capable of DNA, RNA, and protein sequencing
- Will serve as the first device to assess the capability of DNA sequencing in the microgravity environment of space



# How small is small?

- Mass: 120 grams
- Dimensions: 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  x 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 5/8 in
- Powered by Microsoft Surface Pro3 Tablet

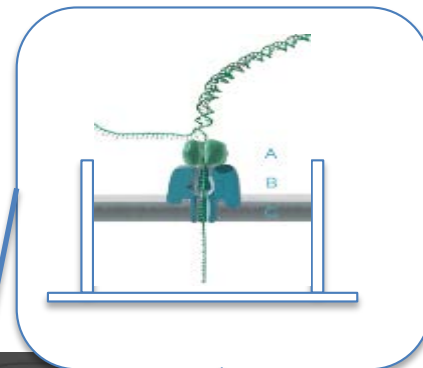




# Nanopore Technology



- A nanopore is a nano-scale hole
- An ionic current passes through the nanopores and measures the changes in current as biological molecules pass through the nanopore
- The information about the change in current can be used to identify that molecule. It can distinguish between the four standard DNA bases (G,A,T,C)



4. Connect MinION to laptop



5. Sample injection



6. Dispose of dispenser



7. Close MinION



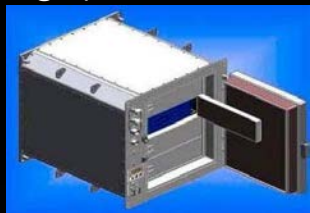
3. Remove & thaw sample



8. Data collection

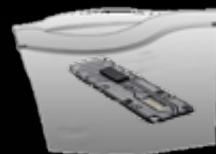


2. Stowage (Ambient, -20°C, 4°C)

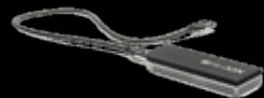


# The First DNA Sequencer in Space

9. Stow used flow cell for return



10. Stow MinION & USB cord



1. Launch packaged items



11. Return of payload





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# Studying Asteroids on the Space Station





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# Regolith



Sure, it's a cool name.

But why should we care?

- Regolith is the fine, pulverized material on the surface of airless bodies like the Moon, asteroids, comets, etc.
- It has no biological component, otherwise we'd call it "soil"
- It is dry, with predominantly sharp-edged grains, and held together by microgravity and inter-particle forces
- In many ways, *it is like nothing found on Earth*

# Regolith



- Apollo astronauts reported a “gunpowder-like” smell from lunar regolith, arising perhaps from oxidation of regolith on entry into the crew cabin
- Health hazards are uncertain
- Apollo reported degradation of sealing surfaces from regolith, and that it clung to all exposed surfaces and was very difficult to remove

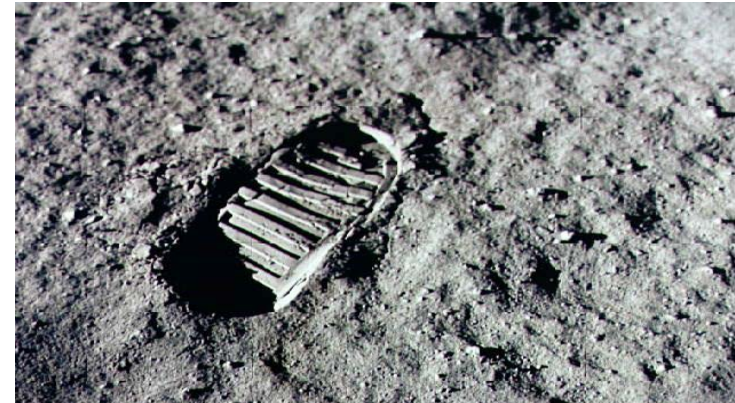


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# The Good, The Bad, And The Regolith

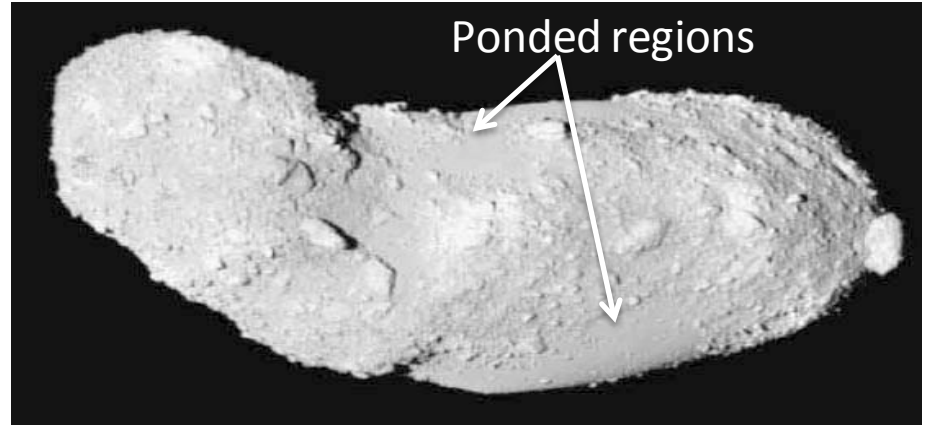


- As evidenced by the six Apollo missions that landed on the lunar surface, this regolith is anything but harmless
  - “gummed up mechanical joints”
  - “coated the radiators on the lunar rover”
  - “sneaked into oxygen-hose connections”
  - “snagged zippers, clotted Velcro fasteners, and scratched helmet visors and camera lenses”
  - wore away the outer layer of astronauts’ spacesuits, and penetrated seals around helmets and gloves, causing oxygen leaks
- For future exploration missions, both robotic and crewed, many subsystems will be vulnerable
  - instruments, spacesuits, airlocks, vehicles, hardware, robotics, and the crew will all be susceptible



# Regolith

- We know even less about the mechanical properties and behavior of regolith
  - *How do you set an anchor in regolith?*
  - *Why do some asteroids and comets have “ponded” regions and what are they?*
  - *How does the regolith compare to the bulk asteroid/comet composition?*
  - *What are the hardness, size distribution, and other physical properties of regolith?*



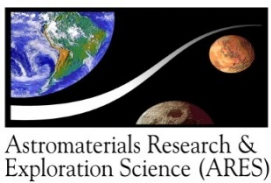
Asteroid Itokawa



## **Strata-1: An Experiment**

*Because You'd Sure Better Understand  
Regolith Before You Have to Cling to It*



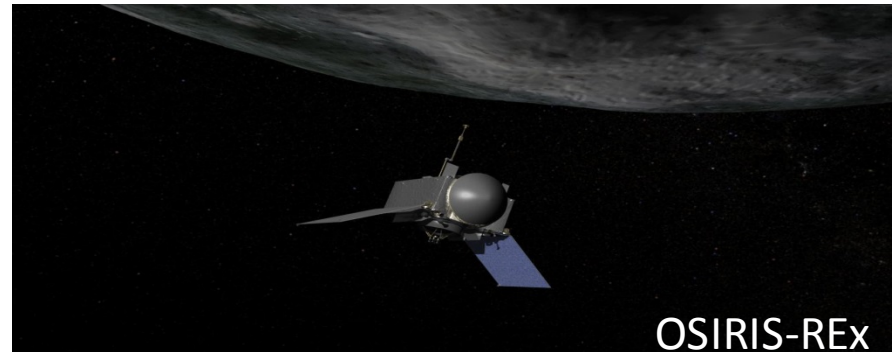
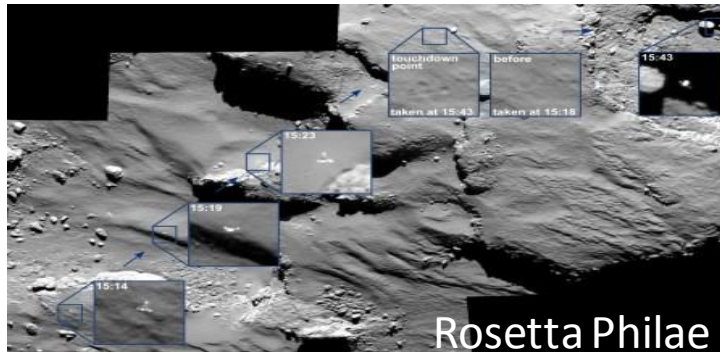


# Strata-1



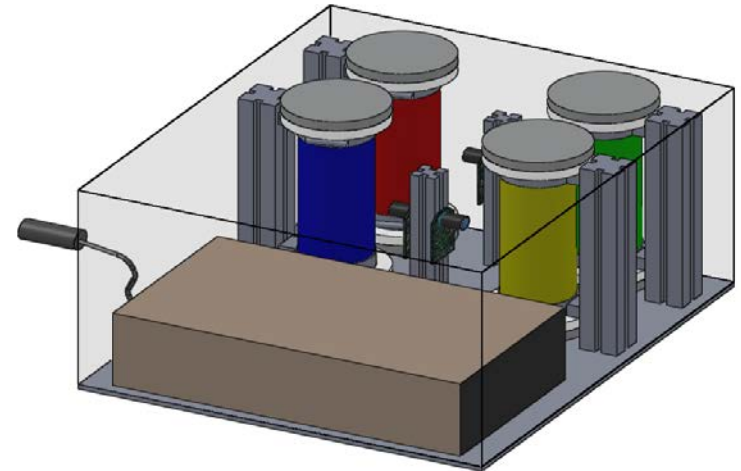
## Purpose & Objectives

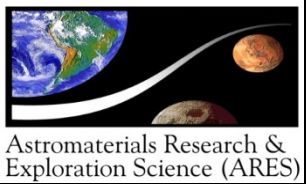
- Strata-1's mission objective is to develop an initial experimental facility designed to investigate the fundamental properties of regolith on small, airless bodies.
- Strata will provide answers about how regolith behaves in microgravity; provide fundamental data on developing models to determine how easy or difficult it is to anchor a spacecraft in regolith, how it interacts with spacecraft and spacesuit materials, and other important properties.



## Purpose & Objectives

- The Strata-1 facility will feature four transparent tubes that are partially filled with regolith simulants which are exposed to extended microgravity and the ambient vibration environment on ISS.
- Strata-1 will image the movement of the simulants in the tube in a “time-lapse” fashion
- Strata-1 launch and landing will have “restrained” simulants
- Strata-1 is completely passive





# Strata-1 Science Questions



- Science Questions:
  - *How does regolith evolve under extended microgravity and ambient vibration?*
    - *We will use Strata results to refine models of regolith evolution, to record compositional and size gradients in the evolved material, and will apply findings to observations of comets and asteroids NASA has visited and will visit in the future*
  - *What roles do particle density, particle shape, and particle composition play in the evolution of regolith?*
    - *We will use Strata results to refine our understanding of airless body evolution*
    - *We will apply Strata results to interpret sample return mission findings from samples to whole-body composition*



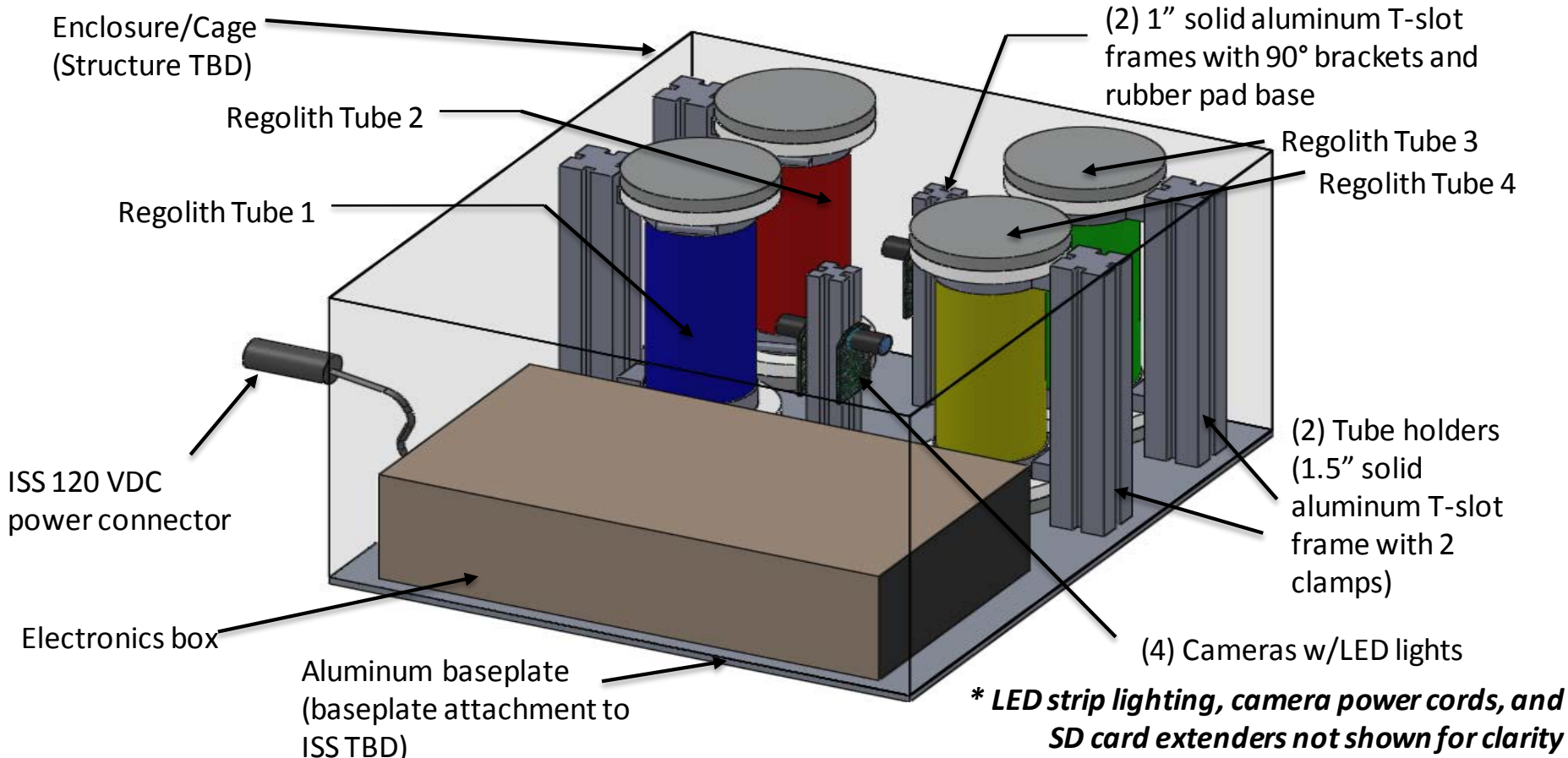
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# Tube Contents



	Material	Max Quantity	Description	Manufacturer
<b>Material 1: Meteorite</b>	olivine (~40%), pyroxene (~35%), Fe-Ni metal (~15%), Trolite (FeS) (~5%), Feldspar (~5%)	~4.2 kg	This will be an ordinary L-chondrite meteorite.	The Solar System
<b>Material 2: Regolith Simulant</b>	smectite or serpentine clay (37.7%), kerogen (1.1%), magnetite (24.3%), pyrrhotite (7.2%), and olivine (29.7%)	~4.2 kg	This is a simulant representing a carbonaceous chondrite meteorite.	University of Central Florida - Dan Britt
<b>Material 3: Glass Beads</b>	silica glass beads, rounded (100%)	~2.9 kg		TBD
<b>Material 4: Glass Fragments</b>	silica glass, fragmented (100%)	~2.9 kg		TBD

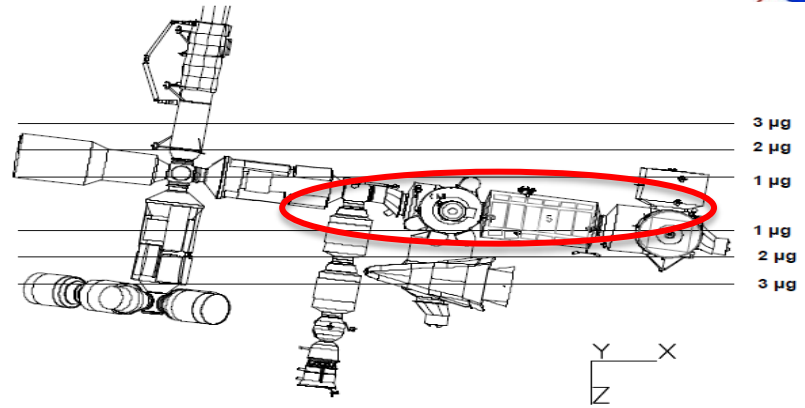
Volume: 16.25" x 19.25" x 11.00"  
Mass: 30 kg





# “Best” Micro-g environment

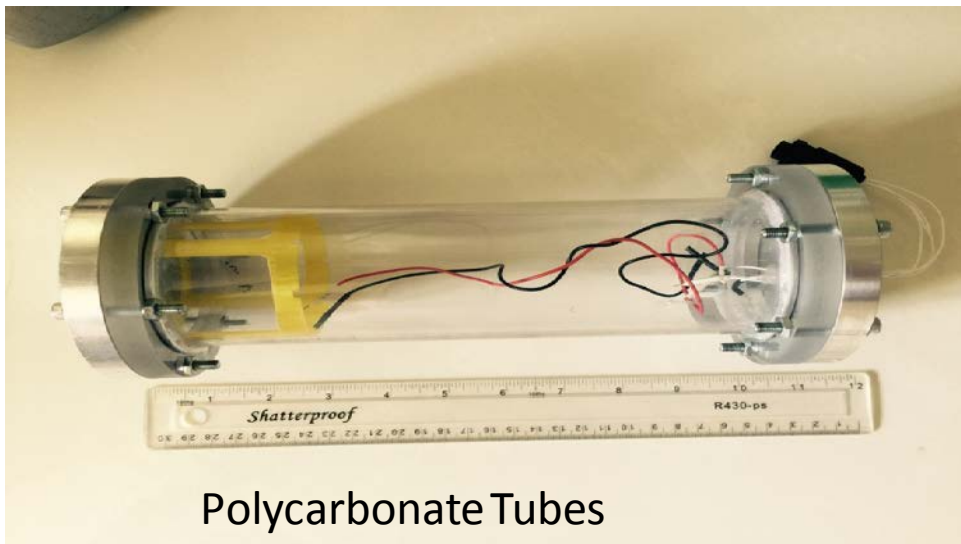
- Location: TBD
- i.e. closest to  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  g ellipsoid if at all possible
- Accelerometer package





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# Tubes & Cameras



Polycarbonate Tubes



HackHD 1080p high definition circuit board-mounted cameras

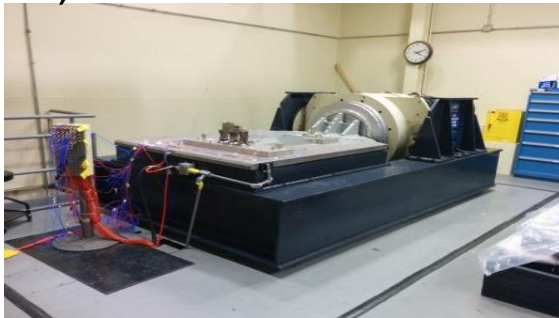


# Vibration/Structural Testing

- Testing Date: Aug/Sept. (TBD)



20,000 lb Horizontal Test Bed



40,000 lb Horizontal Test Bed



40,000 lb Vertical Test Bed

Perform a wide range of vibration tests in all axes to evaluate structural dynamic properties



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# Potential Future *Strata-X* Science Questions



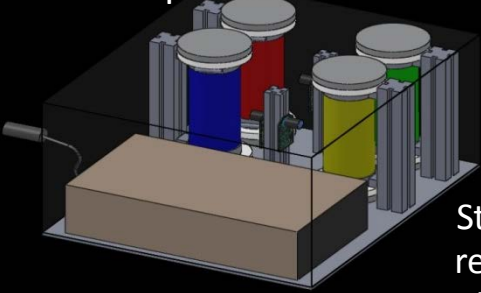
- Tests of anchors
- Tests of space suit and spacecraft materials to regolith exposure
  - quantify adhesion of silicate and carbonaceous regolith to spacesuit and spaceflight hardware
- Dynamical observations of small amounts of free-floating material to understand inter-particle interactions
- Dynamical observations to study evolution of collisions between small particles (i.e. planet formation)
- Cohesion properties of diffuse regolith
- Actively agitated sample tubes to understand regolith evolution after shock events
- Active components in sample tubes (i.e. launch mechanism) to study impacts, collisions
- Tests of sample collection techniques
- Specific examination of the “Brazil nut effect” (BNE) in regolith
  - BNE is the propensity of larger particles to migrate to a regolith surface
- And others, to include refinements based on Strata-1 results



3. Initial crew service



4. Strata-1 autonomous operations

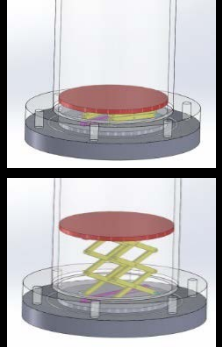


5. Memory card changeout

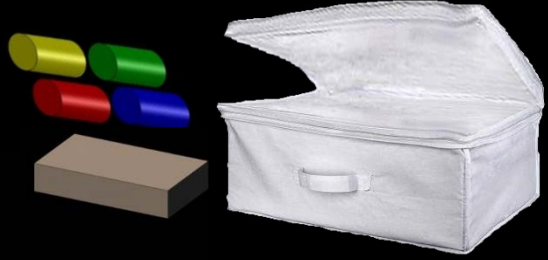


Steps 4 & 5 are repeated every three months.

6. Uninstall Strata-1



7. Stow hardware for return



8. Dispose of other hardware

9. Return Strata-1 hardware



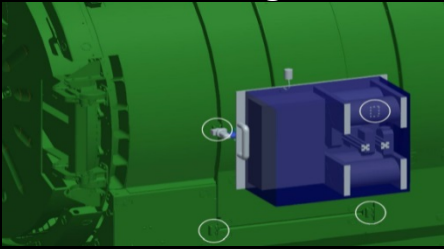
# Strata-1

Regolith in Microgravity

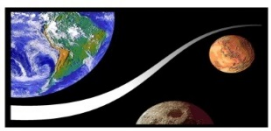
1. Launch Strata-1 assembly



2. Install in designated location







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# Analog Missions

# NEEMO-20



- NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO)
- 14-day underwater mission
  - Evaluate tools and techniques for future spacewalks
  - Variety of surfaces and gravity levels
  - Asteroids, Moons of Mars, Mars
  - Communication time delays
- 4-person international crew
- Habitat is 62 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean (Key Largo, Florida)
- <http://www.nasa.gov/neemo>





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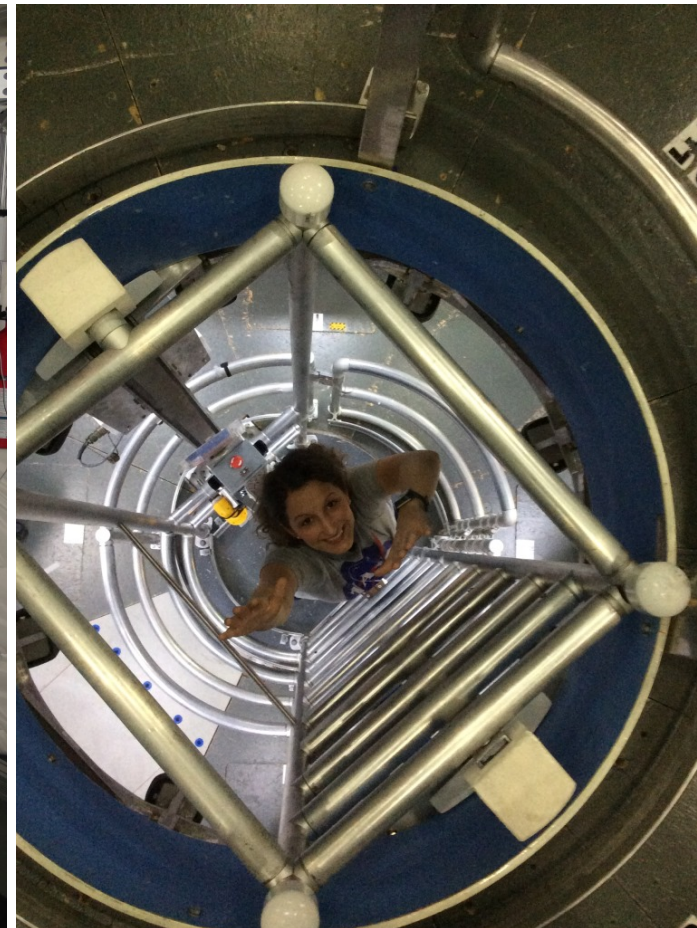
# HERA

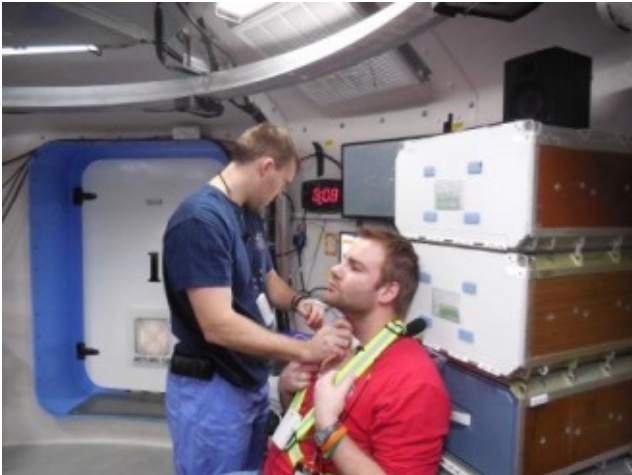






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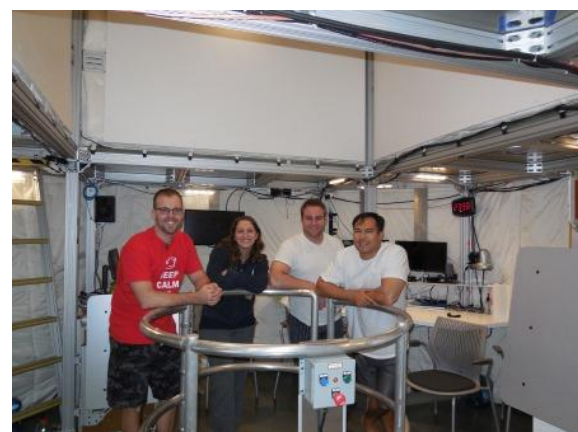
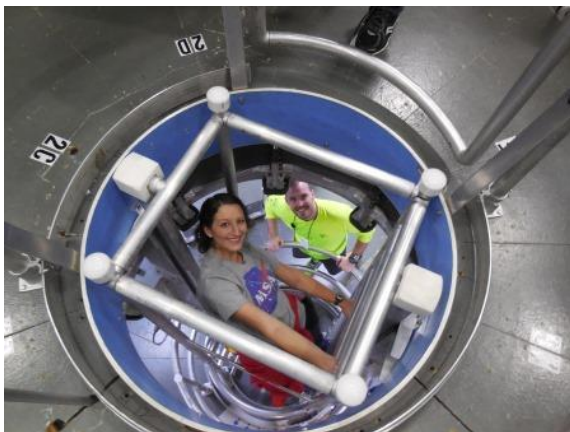








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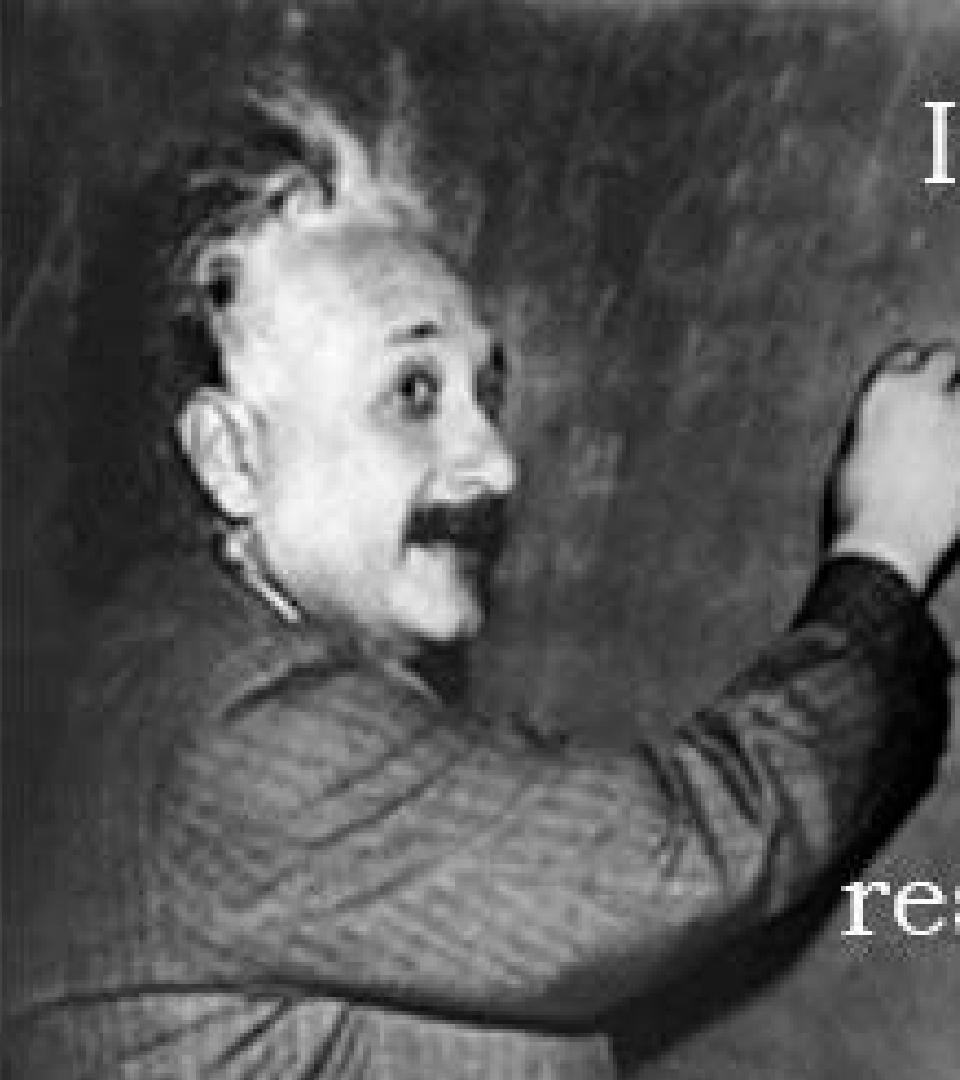


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# HERA Tour



- Play PAO Video

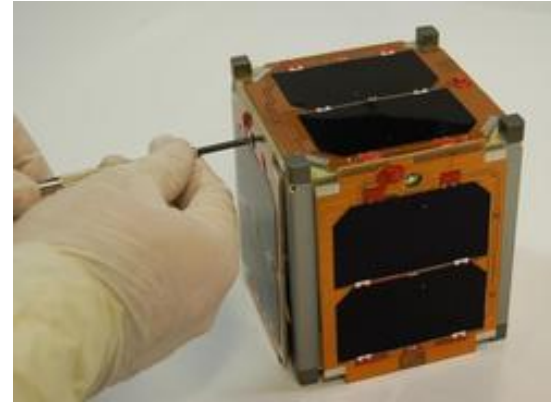


If we knew what  
we were doing  
it would not  
be called  
research, would it?

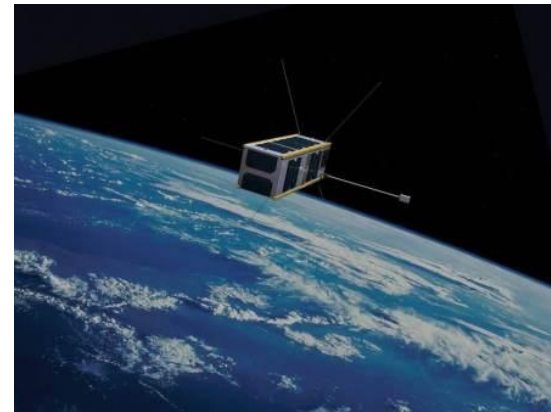
Albert Einstein

# Mission Concept Development

- Brainstorming Meetings
- Exploration Meetings
- CubeSats
- L4/L5 Trojan Search



1U = 10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm



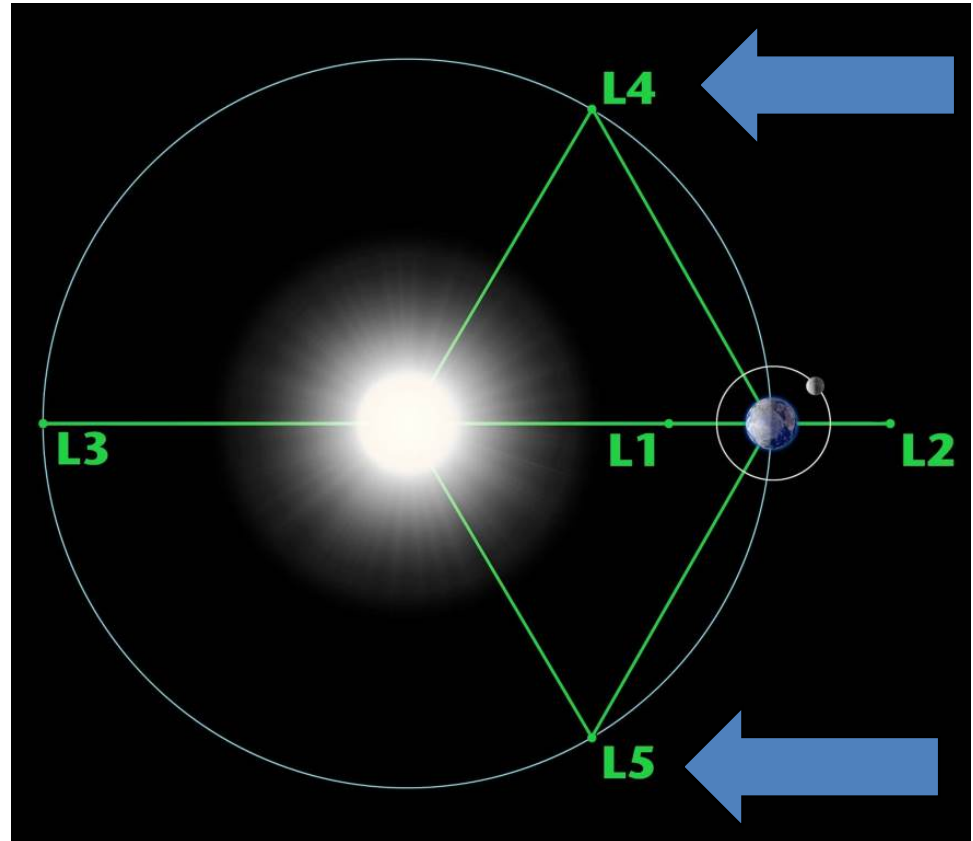


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# Investigating Trojan Asteroids at the L4/L5 Sun-Earth Lagrange Points



- The presence of objects in the Sun-Earth L4 and L5 Lagrange points has long been suspected, and in 2010 NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) detected a 300 m object [1]. To investigate these Earth Trojan asteroid objects, it is both essential and feasible to send spacecraft to these regions
- A Trojan asteroid shares an orbit with a planet or large moon, and orbits around one of the two stable Lagrange points.
- Trojan asteroids do not collide with the co-orbiting object because they lie  $60^\circ$  ahead of (L4) or behind (L5) the larger body's orbit.





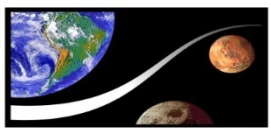


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# Asteroid Science Instruments



Asteroid Science	Associated Instrumentation
Global properties: mass, shape, density, rotation, porosity	Radioscience measurements, LIDAR, imagers, spectrometers
Presence of volatiles	Spectrometers, hyperspectral imagers, micro-GPR (ground penetrating radar)
Local magnetic field detection	Micro-magnetometer
Interior and surface structure	Passive/active seismic measurements, radar
Topography	Imagers, optical cameras, LIDAR, radar
Mineralogical composition	Visible, near-IR, x-ray, gamma-ray spectrometer; hyperspectral imagers
Radiation characterization	Dosimeter
Temperature, thermal inertia	Hyperspectral imager, RFID surface acoustic wave (SAW) sensors, thermal infrared (TIR) detector
Surface roughness	Hyperspectral imager, LIDAR
Dust environment characterization	Imagers, optical camera, Langmuir Probe, active & passive sensors
Surface mobility: granular flow, regolith movement, particle levitation	Imagers, optical camera, RFID SAW sensors
Particle size distribution	Micro-imagers
Particle properties: structure, texture, shape, thickness	Visible imager
Cohesion, friability, surface strength, compaction	Penetrometer, imagers, load cell, physical interaction tool
Mechanical properties of surface: compressive strength, tensile strength, shear strength, toughness, hardness	Penetrometers, gages, specialized tests
Albedo of particles	Imagers, optical camera, IR detector
Subsurface environment characterization: voids, clumps, mass concentrations, temperature, thermal inertia	Penetrometers, micro-GPR, thermocouples

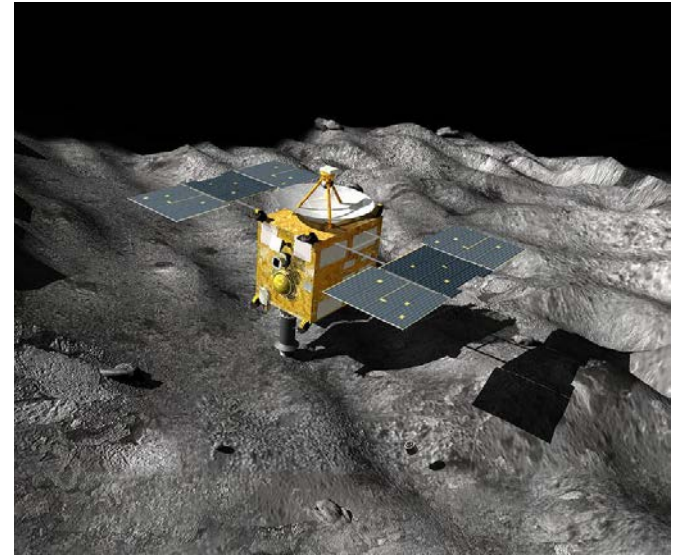


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# Visiting Asteroids



- Only 2 asteroid missions have visited the surface
- Fly-by missions have observed asteroids remotely:
  - Galileo spacecraft (asteroids Gaspra and Ida)
  - Rosetta (asteroids Steins and Lutetia)
  - NEAR (asteroid Mathilde)
  - Stardust, Chang'e 2, Deep Space 1, Vega 2, Deep Impact
- Ground observations, rendezvouses, and fly-bys
  - rotation rates, asteroid taxonomic class, general composition, shape, and size.
- Surface investigations
  - internal structure, detailed composition, surface topography, collisional history, particle size distribution, particle behavior, mechanical properties of the regolith
- Why Asteroids?
  - Asteroids are of scientific interest largely because of the information they will provide about the origins of the Solar System. Additionally, asteroids provide an exploration interest due to the low delta-V required to visit them and because of their presumed high volatile content that could provide possibilities for in-situ resource utilization



<b>2001</b>	<b>NEAR</b>	<b>Eros</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>Hayabusa</b>	<b>Itokawa</b>
<b>2011-2015</b>	<b>Dawn</b>	<b>Vesta &amp; Ceres</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Rosetta</b>	<b>Comet 67P/CG</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Hayabusa-2</b>	<b>1999 JU3</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>OSIRIS-REx</b>	<b>Bennu</b>



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# Strength of Meteorites



- Why?
  - More realistic modeling of impacts involving meteoroids and their parent bodies
  - Improving calculations of meteoroid entry into the atmosphere
  - Understanding the properties of asteroids visited by spacecraft
  - Critical in developing adequate models for understanding the mechanical behavior of meteorites and asteroids
- What?
  - Characterize strength of meteorites over a range of loading conditions that represent various processes in the Solar System
  - Perform compressive and tensile strength tests on an LL5 chondrite
  - Create a platform for expanding the limited data on strength of ordinary and carbonaceous chondrites
  - Quasi-statics tests, then dynamic tests
  - Ordinary chondrites, then carbonaceous chondrites



# Questions?



- Thanks to DOE NNSA SSGF for a wonderful opportunity!

