



# EXPLORE SOLAR SYSTEM&BEYOND

**NASA Town Hall**

AAS 239th Meeting | January 11, 2022

**Paul Hertz**

Director, Astrophysics Division  
Science Mission Directorate

**Eric P. Smith**

Chief Scientist, Astrophysics Division  
Science Mission Directorate



@NASAUniverse @NASAExoplanets @NASAWebb

Charts posted at <http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/documents>

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration





# Outline

- **The NASA Team:** NASA Astrophysics Headquarters Staff / Public Service Announcement: Keep Connected
- **Launches Galore:** Suborbital Investigations / CubeSats / IXPE / Webb / 2022 SMD Highlights
- **2020 Decadal Survey:** NASA Preparation / Some Quick Responses
- **Program Updates:** IDEA / Research Program / Public Service Announcement: Serve on a NASA Peer Review / Roman / Open Science / Hubble Fellows / SMD Calendars
- **Big Finish:** Search for next Director of Astrophysics / Astrophysics is Looking Up
- **Backup:** IDEA / Budget / R&A / Science Policies / Missions in Operation / Missions in Development [38 charts of additional information]

**Info on rescheduled NASA-sponsored AAS sessions available at**  
<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/events-at-aas239>



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

# ASTROPHYSICS FLEET

## PRE-FORMULATION

MIDEX/MO 2028

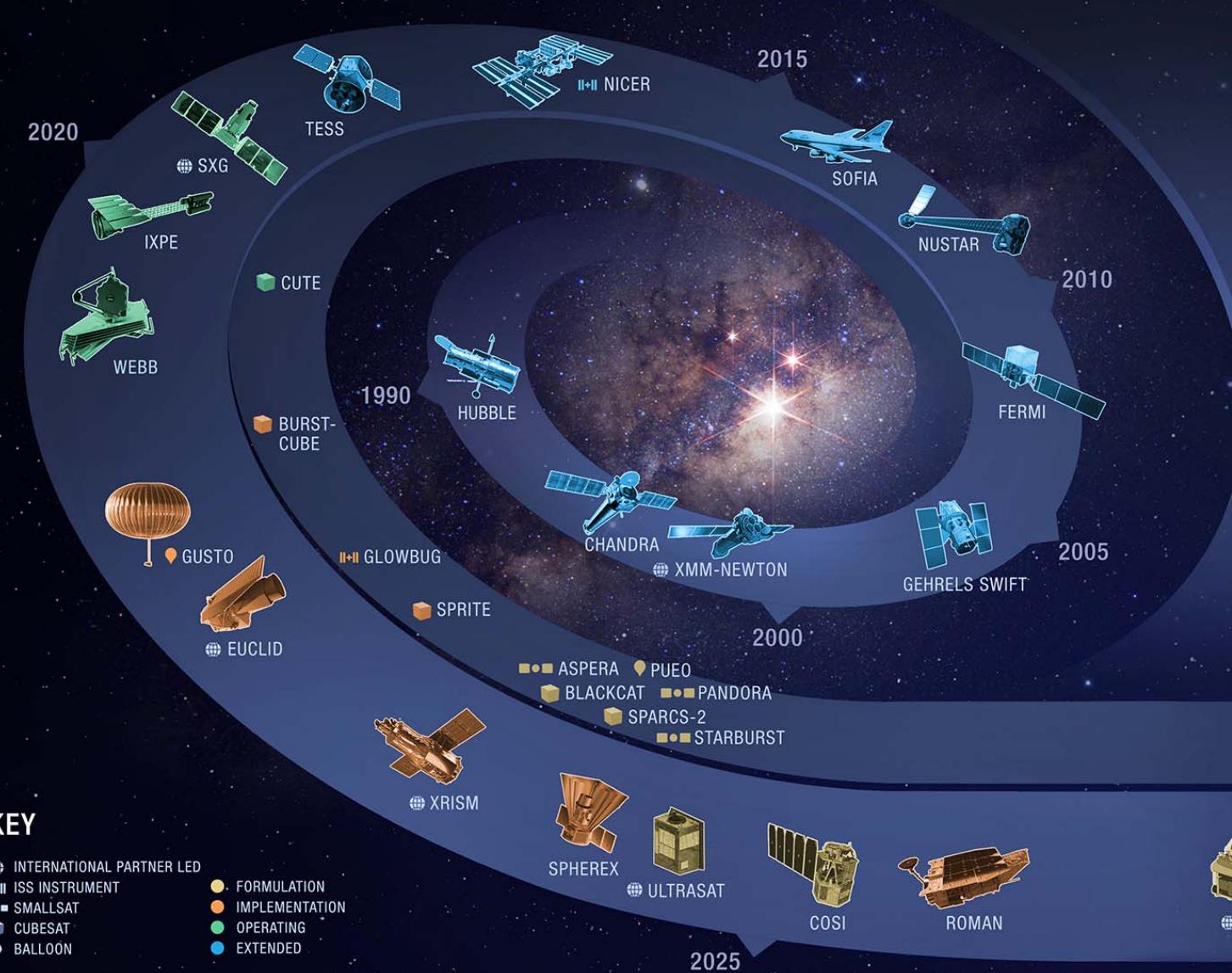
PROBE ~2030

ATHENA EARLY 2030s

LISA MID 2030s

## VERY SMALL MISSIONS

## TRADITIONAL MISSIONS



## KEY

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER LED

ISS INSTRUMENT

SMALLSAT

CUBESAT

BALLOON

- FORMULATION
- IMPLEMENTATION
- OPERATING
- EXTENDED



# The NASA Team



# Sandra Cauffman – Deputy Director



Prior to joining the Astrophysics Division as Deputy Director in October 2021, she was Deputy Director of the Earth Science Division from May 2016 to October 2021; during that period, she served as the Acting Director of Earth Science from February 2019 until May 2020.

Before joining NASA HQ, Mrs. Cauffman worked at the Goddard Space Flight Center for 25 years, progressing from ground systems manager through an increasing series of management roles including instrument manager, project manager, deputy program director, and assistant director of flight projects.

Mrs. Cauffman joined NASA in 1991. She has been awarded the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal and she is a two-time recipient of the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal. She is a four times recipient of the NASA Acquisition Improvement Award, and numerous GSFC and HQ awards. She is a Senior Fellow on the Council for Excellence in Government. She is an Honorary Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Costa Rica and an Honorary Member of the Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos in Costa Rica. Her profile has been highlighted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for being a positive example for women, especially, youth and children. Due to her extensive work in outreach and STEM in Costa Rica and Latin America, the Government of Costa Rica issued a stamp in her honor in 2017. She received a B.S. in Physics, a B.S in Electrical Engineering and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering, all from George Mason University. GMU honored Mrs. Cauffman achievements at their 50th Anniversary in 2018 as one of the 50 “exemplars”, alumni who exemplify the impact of a Mason degree around the world.

# Sandra Cauffman – Deputy Director



Prior to joining the Astrophysics Division as Deputy Director in October 2021, she was Deputy Director of the Earth Science Division from 2019 until May 2020. Before joining NASA HQ, Mrs. Cauffman spent 25 years, progressing from group management roles including manager and assistant director of flight mission operations.

Mrs. Cauffman joined NASA in 1995, receiving the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. She is a four times recipient of numerous GSFC and HQ awards from the Government. She is an Honorary Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Costa Rica, and an Honorary Member of the Costa Rican Society of Engineers and Architects in Costa Rica. Her profile has been highlighted in the International Day of the Girl Child and the Empowerment of Women for being a positive example for women, especially, youth and children. Due to her extensive work in outreach and STEM in Costa Rica and Latin America, the Government of Costa Rica issued a stamp in her honor in 2017. She received a B.S. in Physics, a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering, all from George Mason University. GMU honored Mrs. Cauffman's achievements at their 50th Anniversary in 2018 as one of the 50 "exemplars", alumni who exemplify the impact of a Mason degree around the world.



# NASA Astrophysics Division

## Division Director



**Paul Hertz**  
Astrophysics Division  
Director



**Sandra Cauffman**  
Astrophysics Division  
Deputy Director



## Program Executives



**Rachele Cocks**  
Operating  
MissionPioneers



**E. Lucien Cox**  
SOFIA, GUSTO,  
XRISM, ExEP



**Ed Griego**  
Roman CGI, APD  
Operating Missions



**Shahid Habib**  
PCOS/COR, ARIEL,  
Athena, Euclid, LISA,  
UltraSat



**Janet Letchworth**  
Roman



**Mark Sistilli**  
Explorers Program  
IXPE, SPHEREx, COSI  
Balloons

## Cross Cutting



**Eric Smith**  
Chief Scientist  
Webb



**Jeanne Davis**  
Assoc Dir for Flight  
ASM Program Manager



**Mario Perez**  
Chief Technologist  
SAT, RTF, ISFM, Swift

*Not Pictured*

**Lisa Wainio**  
Information Manager,  
Public Affairs Liaison

## Administrative Support



**Kelly Johnson**  
Administrative Assistant



**Maria Harriell**  
Administrative Assistant



**Lina Carrington**  
Program Support  
Specialist



**Ingrid Farrell**  
Program Support  
Specialist

## Program Scientists



**Dominic Benford**  
Roman  
APRA Lead



**Terri Brandt**  
COSI Dep  
APRA Dep  
Pioneers Dep



**Valerie Connaughton**  
APRA (High Energy)  
XRISM, UltraSat  
PCOS Program



**Michael Garcia**  
APRA (UV/Visible),  
SmallSats/Pioneers  
Hubble



**Thomas Hams**  
APRA (CR, Fund. Phys.)  
Rockets/Balloons  
GUSTO, LISA



**Hashima Hasan**  
Education/Comms, Citizen  
Science, Archives,  
Advisory Committees,  
NuSTAR, Keck



**Douglas Hudgins**  
ExEP Program  
ADAP Lead  
TESS, ARIEL



**Stefan Immler**  
Astrophysics Research  
Program Mgr, Chandra,  
ART-XC



**Hannah Jang-Condell**  
XRP, TESS  
DEIA Lead



**Patricia Knezek**  
Explorers Program  
Astrophysics Probe  
SOFIA, Hubble Fellows



**William Latter**  
APRA (Lab Astro)  
SPHEREx, Fermi



**Sangeeta Malhotra**  
Roman Dep  
ATP/TCAN Dep



**Roopesh Ojha**  
Data Lead, Athena,  
NICER, HEC, AI/ML



**Kartik Sheth**  
On detail to OSTP



**Linda Sparke**  
2021 MIDEX/MO,  
Archives, COSI



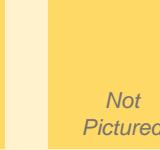
**Eric Tollesstrup**  
APRA (IR/Submm)  
Euclid, IXPE, COR  
Program



**Sanaz Vahidinia**  
ATP/TCAN Lead



*Not  
Pictured*



**Future**



**Future**

# NASA Astrophysics Division

Division Director	Program Executives	Cross Cutting	Administrative Support	Program Scientists					
 <p><b>Paul Hertz</b> Astrophysics Division Director</p>	 <p><b>Rachele Cocks</b> Operating MissionPioneers</p>	 <p><b>Sandra Cauffman</b> Astrophysics Division Deputy Director</p>	 <p><b>E. Lucien Cox</b> SOFIA, GUSTO, XRISM, ExEP</p>	 <p><i>Not Pictured</i></p>					
 <p><b>Ed Griego</b> Roman CGI, APD Operating Missions</p>	 <p><b>Shahid Habib</b> PCOS/COR, ARIEL, Athena, Euclid, LISA, UltraSat</p>	 <p><b>Janet Letchworth</b> Roman</p>	 <p><b>Mark Sistilli</b> Explorers Program IXPE, SPHEREx, COSI Balloons</p>	 <p><i>Not Pictured</i></p>					
 <p><b>Eric Smith</b> Chief Scientist Webb</p>	 <p><b>Kelly Johnson</b> Administrative Assistant</p>	 <p><b>Jeanne Davis</b> Assoc Dir for Flight ASM Program Manager</p>	 <p><b>Maria Harriell</b> Administrative Assistant</p>	 <p><b>Mario Perez</b> Chief Technologist SAT, RTF, ISFM, Swift</p>	 <p><b>Hashima Hasan</b> Education/Comms, Citizen Science, Archives, Advisory Committees, NuSTAR, Keck</p>	 <p><b>Douglas Hudgins</b> ExEP Program ADAP Lead TESS, ARIEL</p>	 <p><b>Stefan Immler</b> Astrophysics Research Program Mgr, Chandra, ART-XC</p>	 <p><b>Lina Carrington</b> Program Support Specialist</p>	 <p><b>Ingrid Farrell</b> Program Support Specialist</p>
 <p><b>Dominic Benford</b> Roman APRA Lead</p>	 <p><b>Michael Garcia</b> APRA (UV/Visible), SmallSats/Pioneers Hubble</p>	 <p><b>Thomas Hams</b> APRA (CR, Fund. Phys.) Rockets/Balloons GUSTO, LISA</p>	 <p><b>Hashima Hasan</b> Education/Comms, Citizen Science, Archives, Advisory Committees, NuSTAR, Keck</p>	 <p><i>Not Pictured</i></p>	 <p><b>Valerie Connaughton</b> APRA (High Energy) XRISM, UltraSat PCOS Program</p>	 <p><b>Douglas Hudgins</b> ExEP Program ADAP Lead TESS, ARIEL</p>	 <p><b>Stefan Immler</b> Astrophysics Research Program Mgr, Chandra, ART-XC</p>	 <p><b>Hannah Jang-Condell</b> XRP, TESS DEIA Lead</p>	 <p><b>Patricia Knezek</b> Explorers Program Astrophysics Probe SOFIA, Hubble Fellows</p>
 <p><b>William Latter</b> APRA (Lab Astro) SPHEREx, Fermi</p>	 <p><b>Sangeeta Malhotra</b> Roman Dep ATP/TCAN Dep</p>	 <p><b>Kartik Sheth</b> On detail to OSTP</p>	 <p><b>Linda Sparke</b> 2021 MIDEX/MO, Archives, COSI</p>	 <p><b>Eric Tollesstrup</b> APRA (IR/Submm) Euclid, IXPE, COR Program</p>	 <p><b>Sanaz Vahidinia</b> ATP/TCAN Lead</p>	 <p><i>Not Pictured</i></p>	 <p><i>Not Pictured</i></p>	 <p><b>New to Astrophysics Division</b></p>	 <p><b>New NASA Civil Servant</b></p>

Astrophysics Program Abbreviations: ASM – Astrophysics Strategic Missions; COR – Cosmic Origins; ExEP – Exoplanet Exploration Program; PCOS - Physics of the Cosmos

January 3, 2022

# In Memoriam

Dr. Heather Watson  
Astrophysics Program Scientist



November 2, 1965 - November 6, 2021

# Keep Connected with NASA

NSPIRES mailing list – information about NASA solicitations

<https://nspires.nasaprs.com/>

Cosmic Origins mailing list, Exoplanet Exploration mailing list, Physics of the Cosmos mailing list – information about NASA missions and science

<https://cor.gsfc.nasa.gov/cornews-mailing-list.php>

<https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/announcementList/>

<https://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/pcosnews-mailing-list.php>

NASA Astrophysics Federal Advisory Committees

Astrophysics Advisory Committee (APAC)

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/nac/science-advisory-committees/apac>

NASEM Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics (CAA)

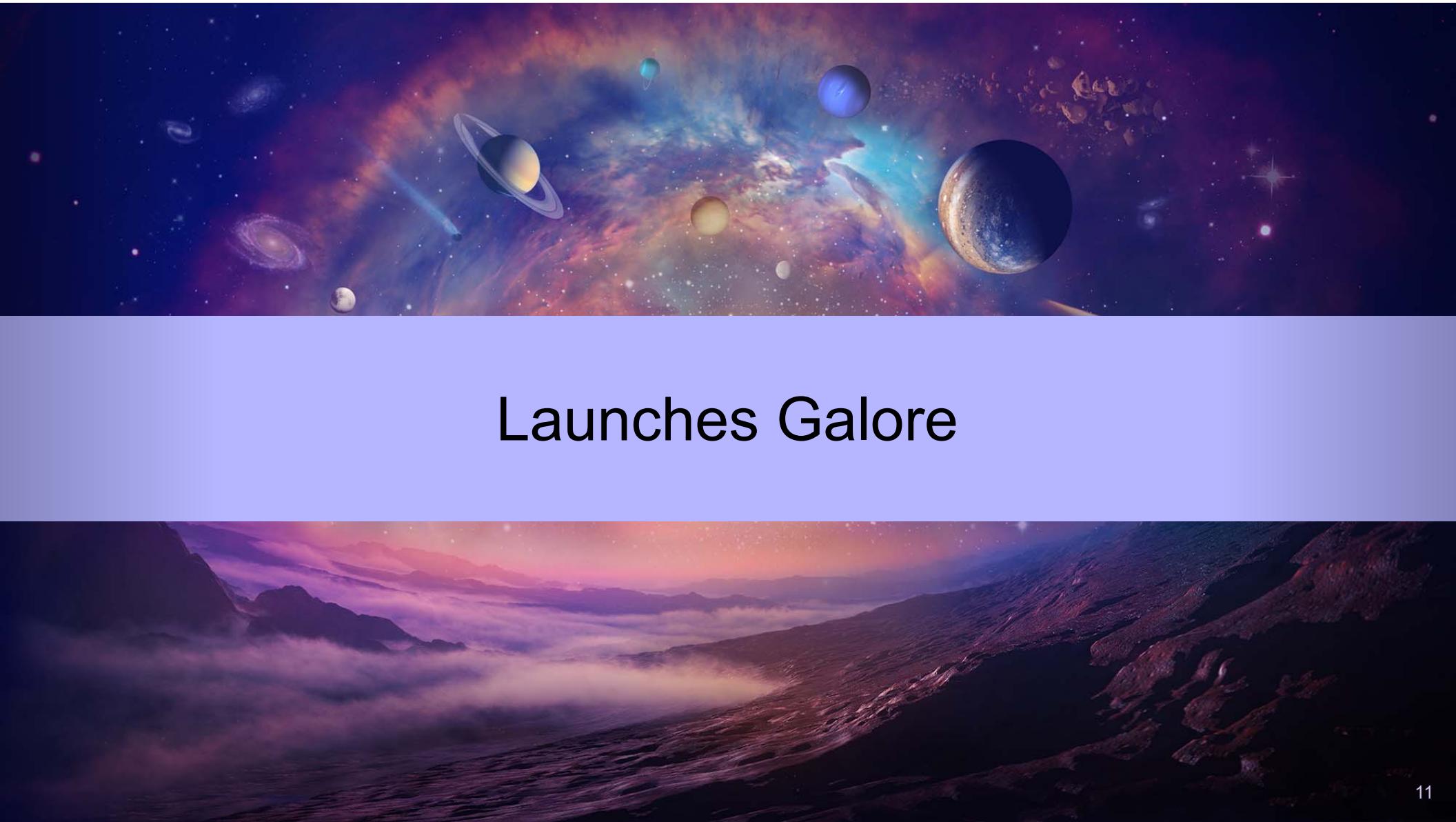
[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/bpa/bpa\\_048755](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/bpa/bpa_048755)

Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC)

<https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac.jsp>

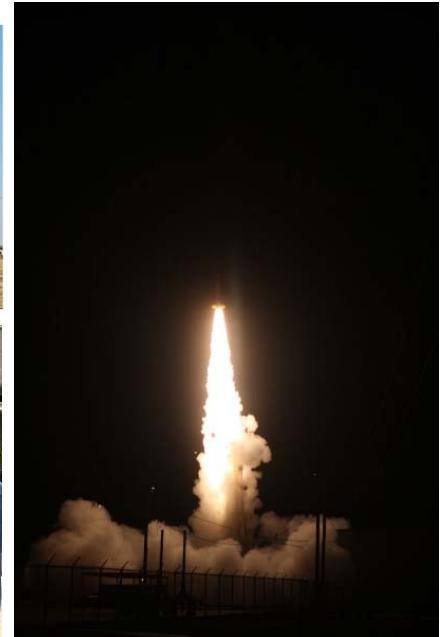
Sign up to be a panel reviewer:

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels>



# Launches Galore

# Suborbital Launches



Fall 2021 Balloon Campaign (Ft Sumner, NM)  
7 balloon launches plus 34 student payloads

First balloon campaign since Winter 2019 (Antarctica)

Planning for CY22 balloon campaigns includes:

- Spring 2022 (New Zealand)
- Spring 2022 (Sweden)
- Fall 2022 (Ft Sumner NM)
- Winter 2022 (Antarctica)

SISTINE, PI K. France (U. Colorado) [Nov 8, White Sands NM]  
DXL, PI M. Galeazzi (U. Miami) [Jan 9, Wallops Island VA]

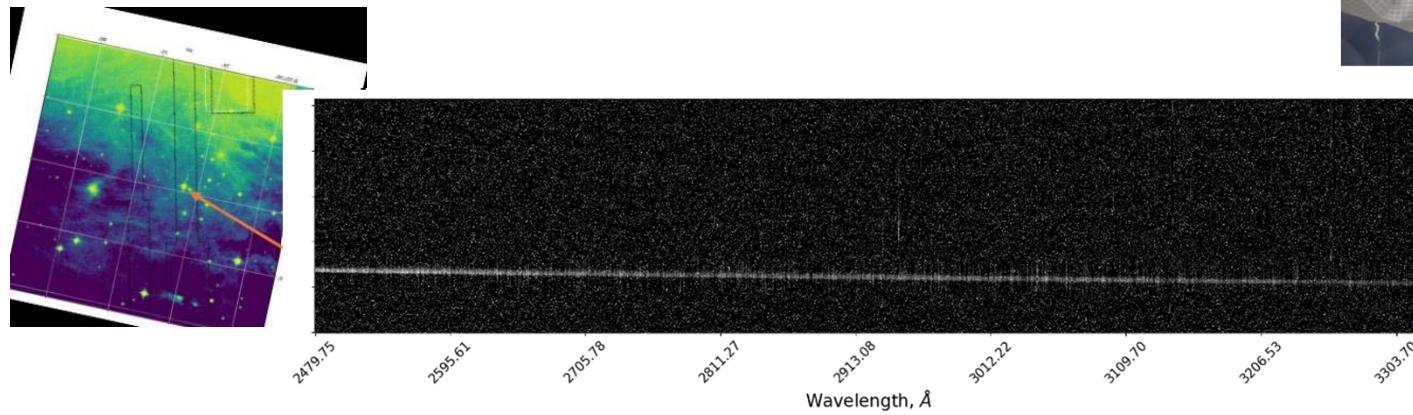
Additional sounding rocket launches planned in CY22

- tREXS, PI R. McEntaffer (Penn State U.) May from White Sands
- XQC, PI D. McCammon (U. Wisconsin) June from Australia
- SISTINE, PI K. France (U. Colorado) July from Australia
- DEUCE, PI B. Fleming (U. Colorado) July from Australia
- Micro-X, PI E. Figueroa (Northwestern U.) August from White Sands

# Colorado Ultraviolet Transit Experiment (CUTE)



- CUTE is a 6U cubesat with an NUV (255 – 330nm) telescope and spectrograph to study transiting planets around bright stars
- Launched Sep 27, 2021, as a secondary payload on the LANDSAT-9 mission. Spacecraft tracked and communications established within 2 days in coordination with amateur satellite community
- Spacecraft commissioning complete mid-Nov 2021, science payload commissioning to be complete by late-Jan 2022. Science operations to execute Feb 1 – Oct 31, 2022



*Calibration spectrum from CUTE  
(K. France/University of Colorado)*

Next astrophysics cubesat launches: BurstCube (PI J. Perkins) and SPRITE (PI B. Fleming) in 2023

# Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)

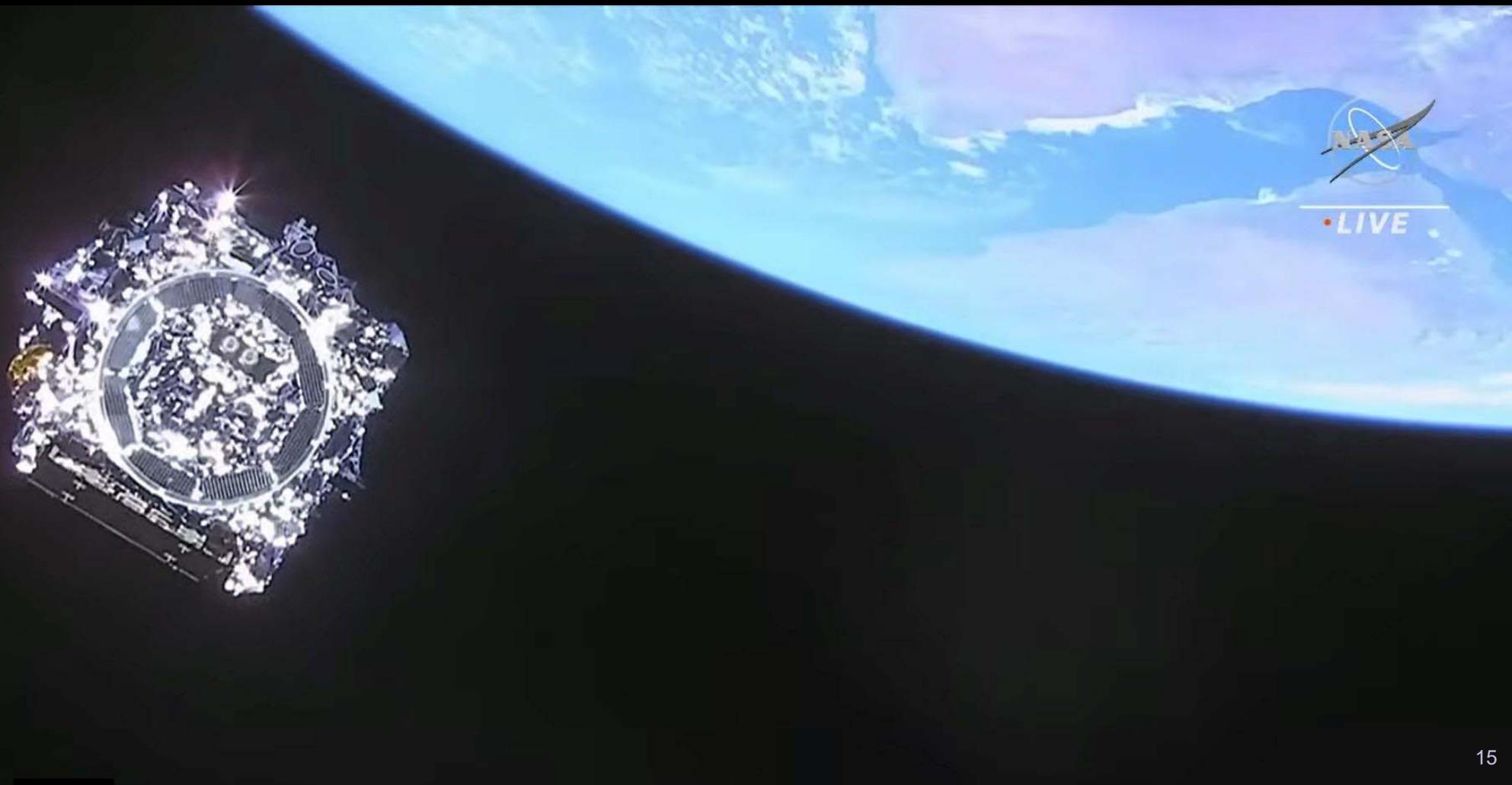
Launch Dec 9

Boom deploy Dec 15

Science start Jan 10



# James Webb Space Telescope Update



# Webb Space Telescope Update



The precision of ESA/Arianespace's launch means Webb life-limiting fuel supply will last significantly more than 10 years



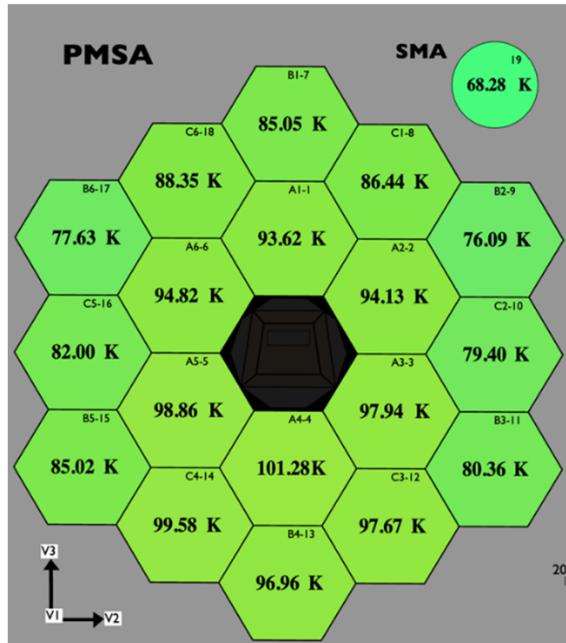
Textbook major deployment phase went as planned (14 days)  
Finishing on 1/8/2022



Astronomical Christmas Gift 12/25/2021

# Webb Deployments Progress

All major deployments completed on schedule and performance is nominal



Current Primary Mirror Segment Temperatures  
(10-Jan-2022)

## Optical Telescope Element (OTE) Details Regions 1 & 2

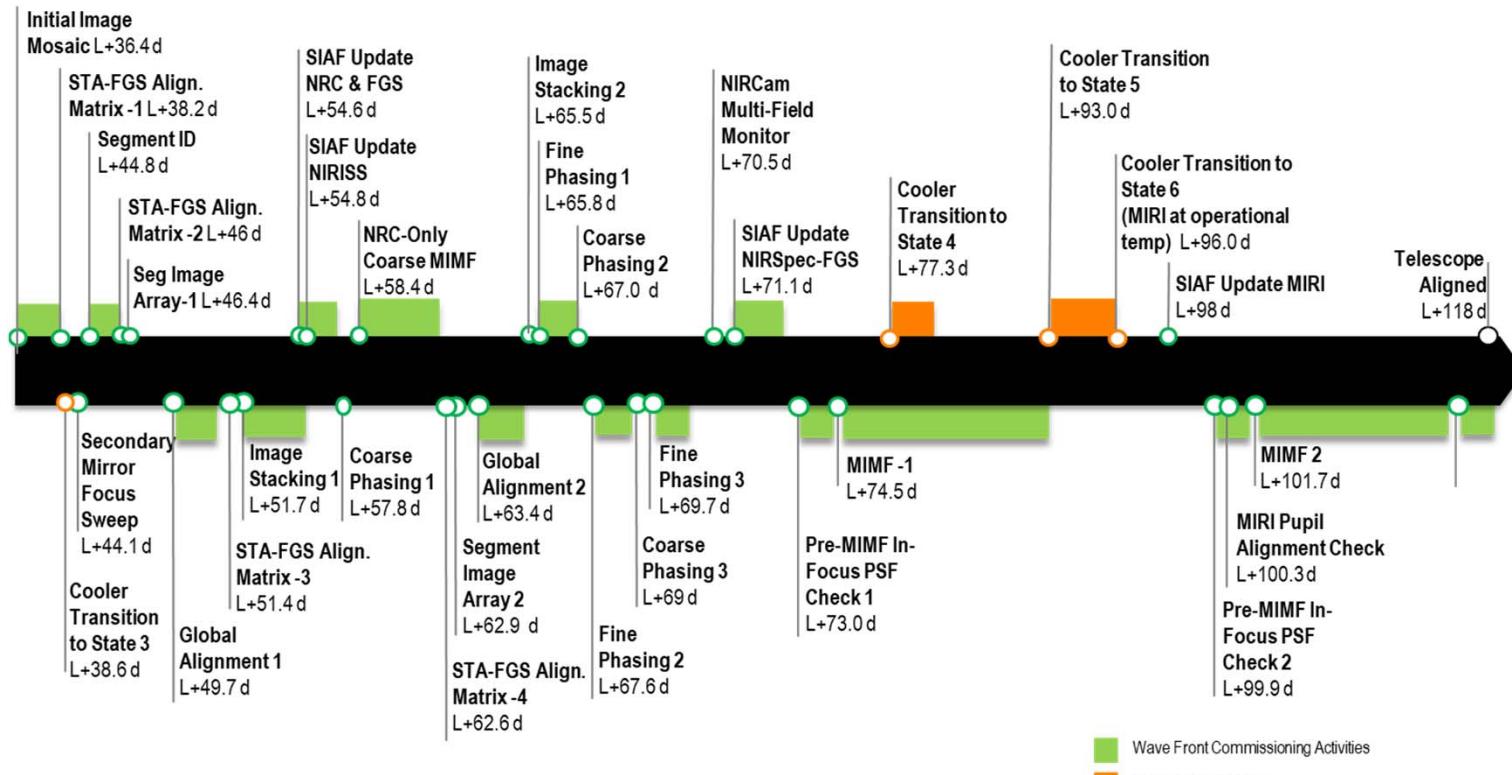
OTE Group	Max Temp. (K)	Limit Violation(s)
Backplane/BSF	94.35	None
PMSAs/SMA	101.59	None
AOS & SMA Struc.	218.27	None

## Integrated Science Instrument Module (ISIM) Details Region I

ISIM Group	Max Temp. (K)	Limit Violation(s)
IEC & HR	281.74	None
ADIR	80.44	None
Instruments	181.46	None
ISIM Structures	138.77	None
ISIM Enclosure	130.61	None

# Webb Commissioning Tasks To Go

- Telescope commissioning is the next major series of activities (see below)
- Instrument commissioning follows (L+118 to L+180)



## Other Webb Good News

Webb General Observer Funding: ~\$60M/year  
Cycle 2 Call for Proposals coming in 10 months!

Webb Space Telescope Town Hall

Rescheduled to Jan 28

Details TBA



BIO EXP-1  
ARTEMIS 1



LUNAH-MAP  
ARTEMIS 1



ARTEMIS 1 PEREGRINE-1



FIRST LIGHT



JPSS-2 EARTH FLYBY



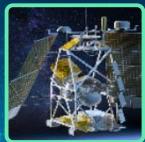
SOFIE  
SPX-25



IMPACT



EMIT



GUSTO

## 2022 SCIENCE LAUNCHES & MILESTONES



GOES-T



TROPICS (3)



1<sup>ST</sup> NOVA-C



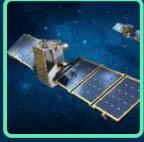
PSYCHE



EUCLID



2<sup>ND</sup> NOVA-C



JANUS



MOMA-MS

- LAUNCH
- DELIVERY
- MILESTONE



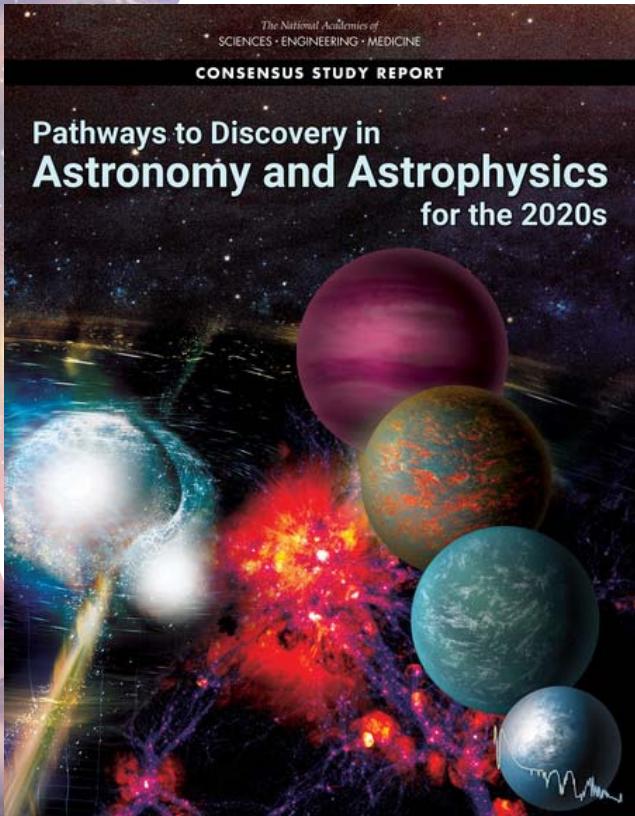
# 2020 Decadal Survey

# Astrophysics

## Decadal Survey Missions



# NASA and the 2020 Decadal Survey



Thanks to the 2020 Decadal Survey Steering Committee and Panels for an inspiring and ambitious Decadal Survey

## Carpe Posterum

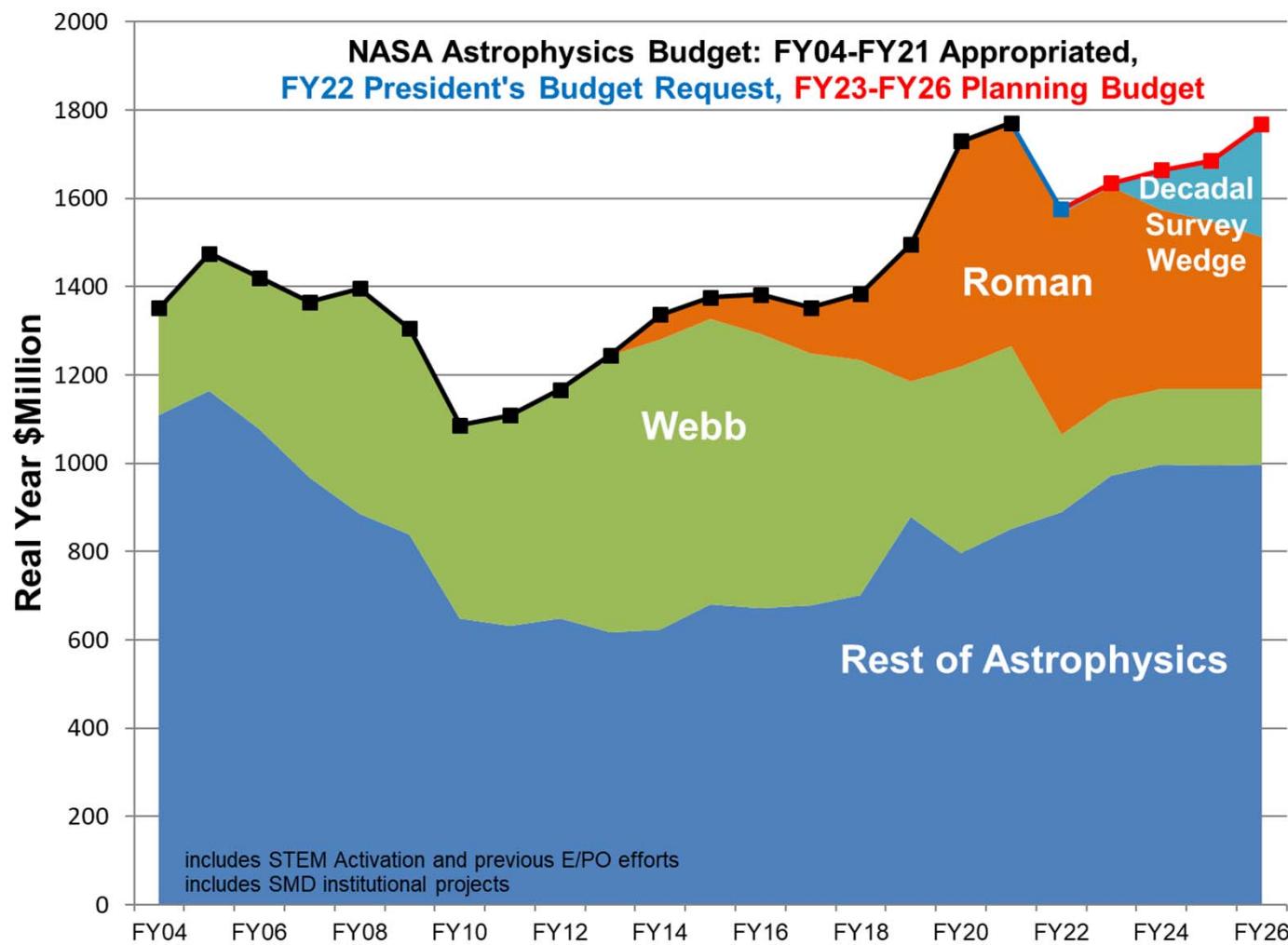
NASA has been working in advance of the Decadal Survey

- Reducing risks of large missions via technology development, precursor science and through studying [lessons learned from prior large missions](#)
- Developing options for recommendations in IDEA, R&A, suborbital, Explorers, and Probes that maintain a balanced portfolio
- Staying focused on Webb and Roman mission success
- Developing options for large mission risk reduction activities – an “all of NASA” activity involving Government, industry, and academia
- Holding wedges in out year planning budgets for new initiatives

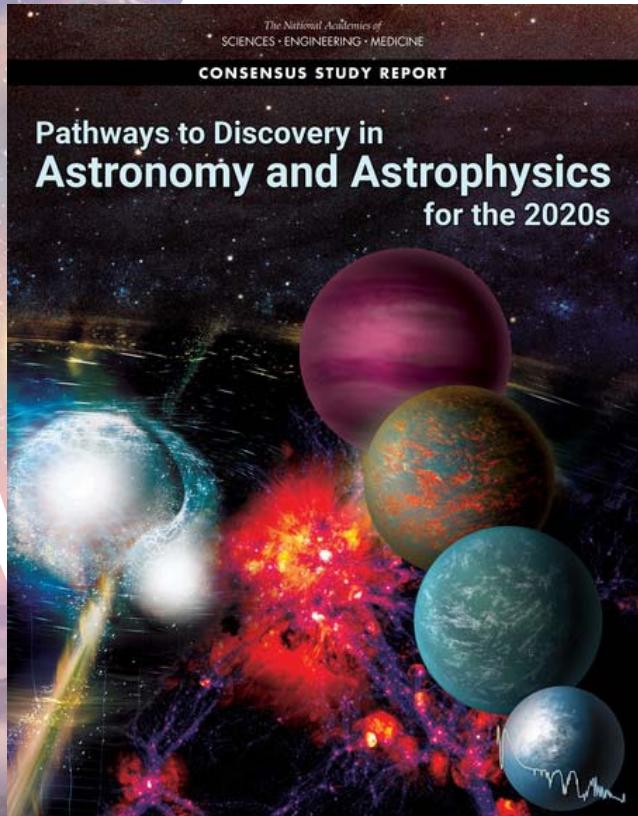
We are bound by the budgets that we have

- First budget that is fully informed by the Decadal Survey will be the FY24 budget proposal submitted to Congress in Feb 2023

# Astrophysics Budget – FY22 Request



# NASA and the 2020 Decadal Survey



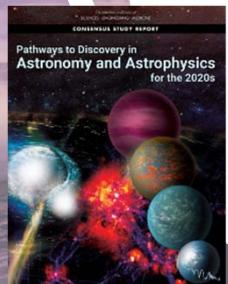
- An inspiring and ambitious plan for the next decade and beyond
  - Foundations of the Profession: Addressing inclusion, diversity, training, and the profession
  - Research Foundation: Improvements to research and analysis and data centers
  - Sustaining the Operating Portfolio: End SOFIA operations by 2023
  - Technological Foundation: Improvements to technology development programs and the balloon program
  - New Medium Initiative: Time Domain Astrophysics and Multi-Messenger Program
  - New Medium Initiative: Astrophysics Probes
  - New Large Initiative: Great Observatories Science, Mission and Technology Maturation Program for IR/O/UV, FIR, and X-ray Next Generation Great Observatories
  - New Large Initiative: Next Generation Great Observatories, starting with an IR/O/UV Large Mission optimized for exoplanets and astrophysics

# Foundations of the Profession

Actions already being taken by NASA that are responsive to recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey include

- Investment in Bridge Program starting in 2022
- Astrophysics mission design summer school, to help train new PIs, in 2023
- Expansion of the ROSES Inclusion Plan pilot in ROSES-22 with eventual incorporation into selection decisions
- Including diversity and inclusion of teams in evaluation of AO proposals starting in 2022
- Continuation of NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP), while encouraging development of scientific leaders who advance diversity and inclusive excellence, in accordance with external NHFP Review in 2022 **[Community webinar planned for February]**
- Keeping the option of virtual panels to reduce carbon footprint and increase accessibility
- Seeking access to demographic data and indicators pertaining to outcomes of proposal competitions
- Partnerships with NASA's Office of STEM Engagement to increase support of HBCUs, TCUs, and other MSIs
- NASA and NSF are beginning discussions on the state of the profession

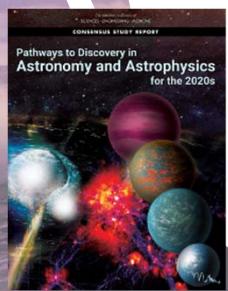
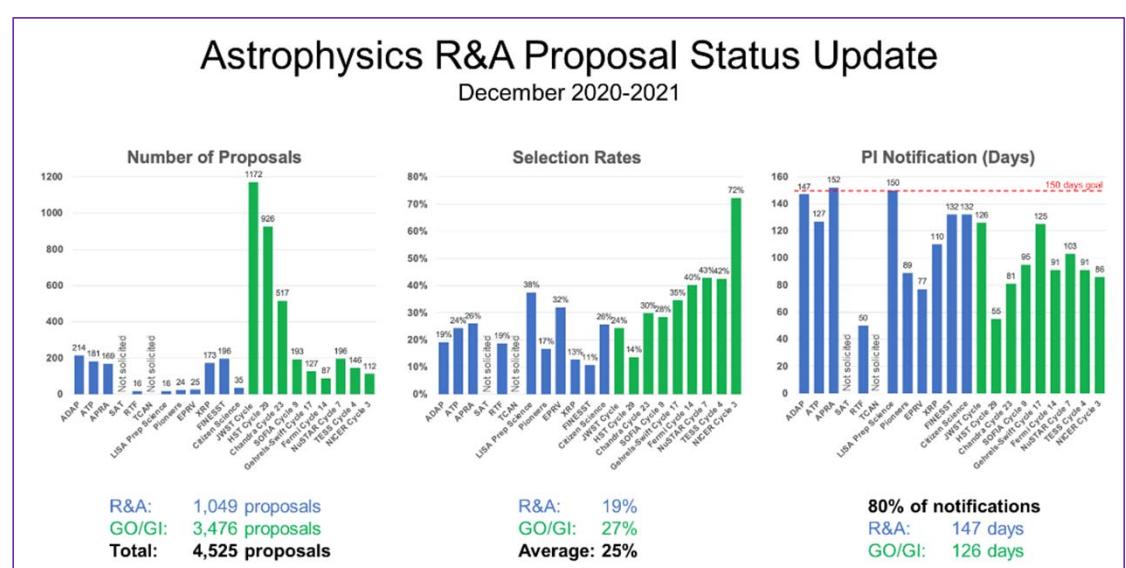
Actions are being developed to address remaining Foundations of Profession recommendations



# Research Foundation

Actions already being taken by NASA now that are responsive to recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey include

- NASA will continue to release data on proposal success rates at all AAS Town Halls and Astrophysics Advisory Committee meetings
- NASA will discuss options of returning to an annual solicitation in the Astrophysics Theory Program (ATP) with the Astrophysics Advisory Committee, recognizing the concerns about selection rates
  - There will be no ATP call in ROSES-22, as all of the potential new start funding was awarded through the ROSES-21 ATP
  - NASA and NSF have begun discussions on coordinating data archives

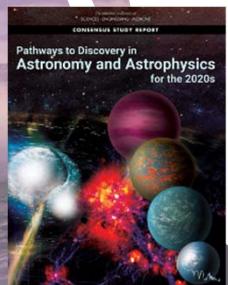




# Sustaining the Operating Portfolio

**Recommendation:** NASA should end SOFIA operations by 2023, consistent with NASA's current plan.

**Response:** NASA is developing a response to this recommendation.

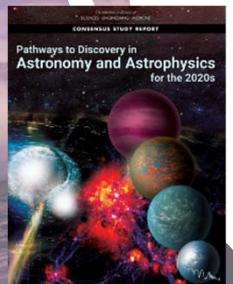


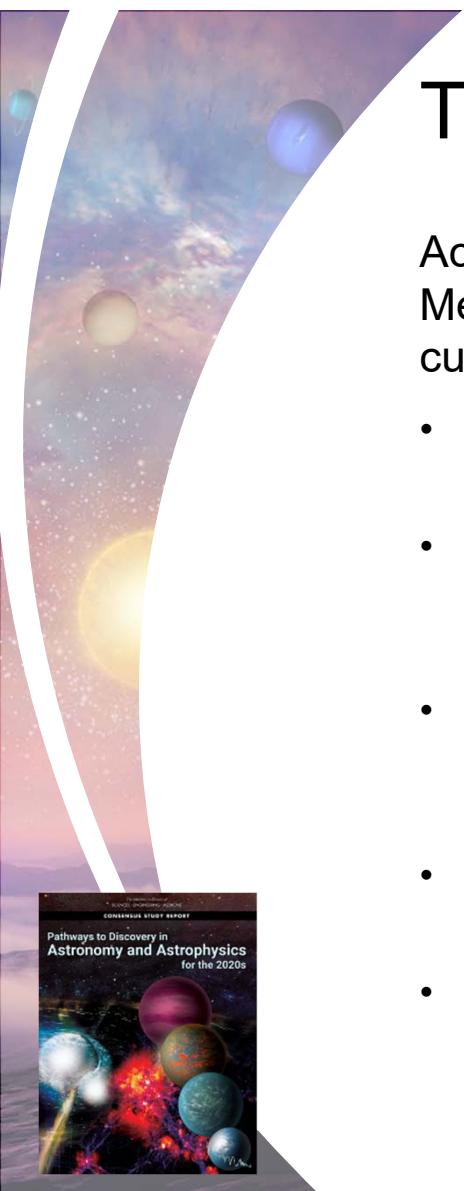


# Technological Foundation

Actions are being developed to address Technological Foundation recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey

- SAT recommendation: NASA has already modified the SAT call in ROSES-21 (and ROSES-22) to include technologies for identified future Great Observatories and identified future Probe missions (see ROSES-21, Amendment 37)
- Balloon Program recommendation: NASA will conduct an external review of the balloon program, possibly as a task force of the Astrophysics Advisory Committee (APAC)
- Explorers recommendation: NASA will maintain the established cadence of 4 AOs per decade, alternating between MIDEX and SMEX and including Missions of Opportunity, and Explorers will remain open to all areas of science
  - 2011 MIDEX AO: TESS and NICER
  - 2014 SMEX AO: IXPE and GUSTO
  - 2016 MIDEX AO: SPHEREx and ARIEL
  - 2019 SMEX AO: COSI
  - 2021 MIDEX AO: Received 20 MIDEX+MO proposals on December 9
  - 2024 SMEX AO: planned AO
  - 2026 MIDEX AO: planned AO

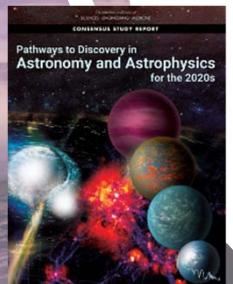


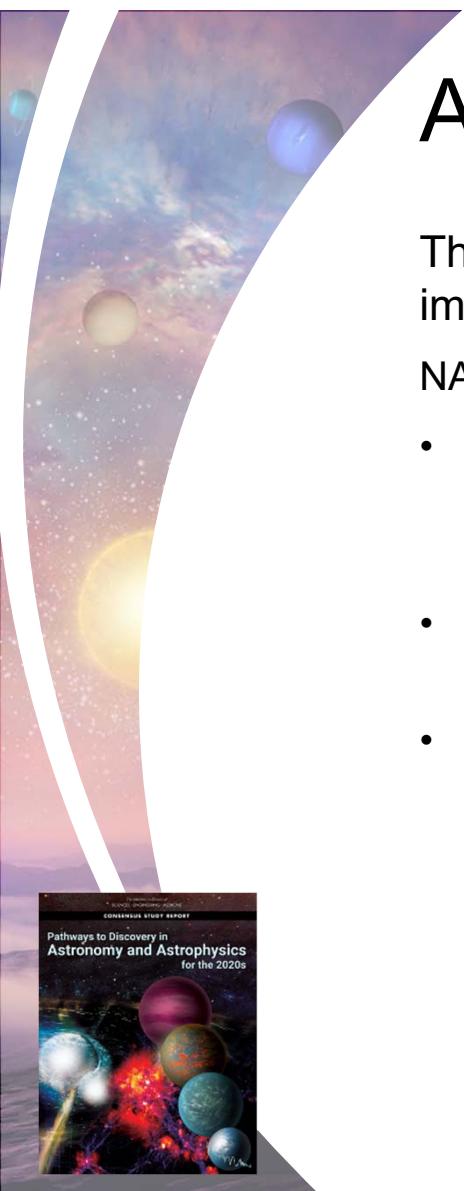


# Time Domain & Multi-Messenger Program

Actions are being developed to address Time Domain Astrophysics and Multi Messenger (TDAMM) recommendations of the 2020 Decadal Survey; NASA's current thinking is

- A panchromatic, multi-messenger program enabled by current and upcoming ground- and space-based facilities will require coordination and broad community involvement
- In addition to new flight missions, the program must involve multi-mission, interagency, and international coordination in the areas of data archives, data standards, transient alerts, and community research opportunities
- Existing and future (in development) NASA missions will continue to make valuable contributions to TDAMM, and upcoming NASA missions and partnerships promise to do likewise
- This will be a program with extensive international cooperation, shaped using broad community input
- NASA has invited its international partners and NSF to participate in the necessary cooperation





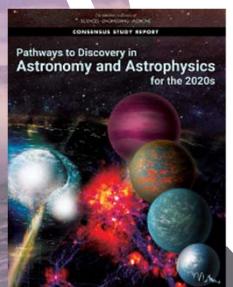
# Astrophysics Probes

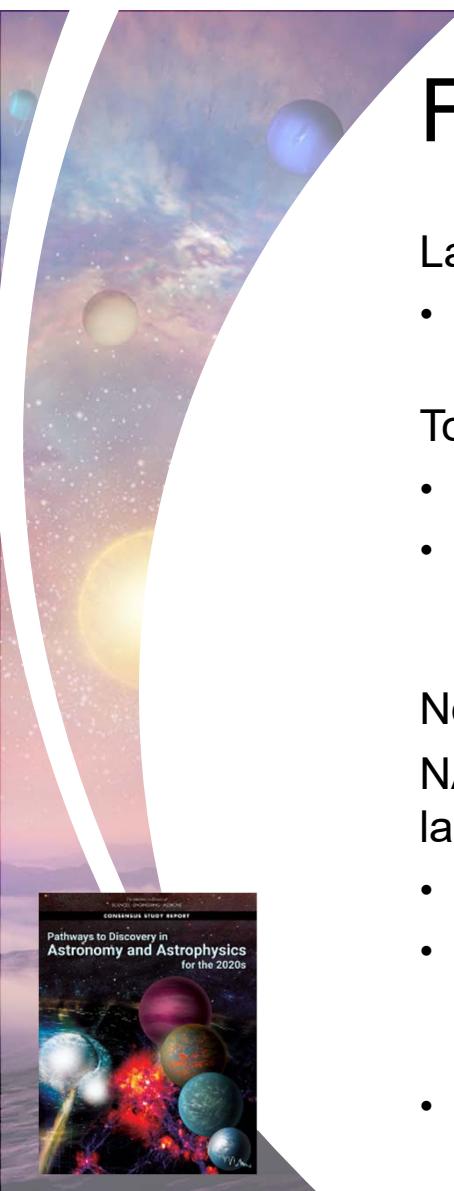
The 2020 Decadal Survey recommends competed probe missions; NASA is implementing this recommendation immediately

NASA will release an AO for a PI-led Astrophysics Probe

- Proposals will be limited to the recommended priority areas:
  - A far infrared imaging or spectroscopy mission
  - An X-ray probe to complement ESA's Athena Observatory
- A Community Announcement laying out the primary parameters of the upcoming Astrophysics Probe AO is released on Jan 11, 2022
- Some important parameters:
  - PI-lead mission, \$1B (FY23) PI-Managed Mission Cost Cap (PIMMC)
  - International contributions are welcome
  - PIMMC does not include contributions, access to space, GO/GI programs

Release of draft AO:	June 2022 (target)
Release of final AO:	January 2023 (target)
Proposals due:	NET 90 days after AO release





# Future Great Observatories

Large observatories are a critical component of NASA's astrophysics portfolio

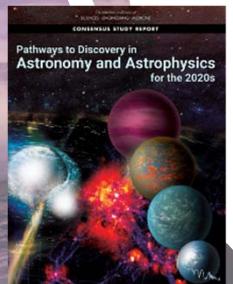
- The Decadal Survey recommends a compelling, feasible, timely portfolio of future great observatories that is part of a balanced Astrophysics program

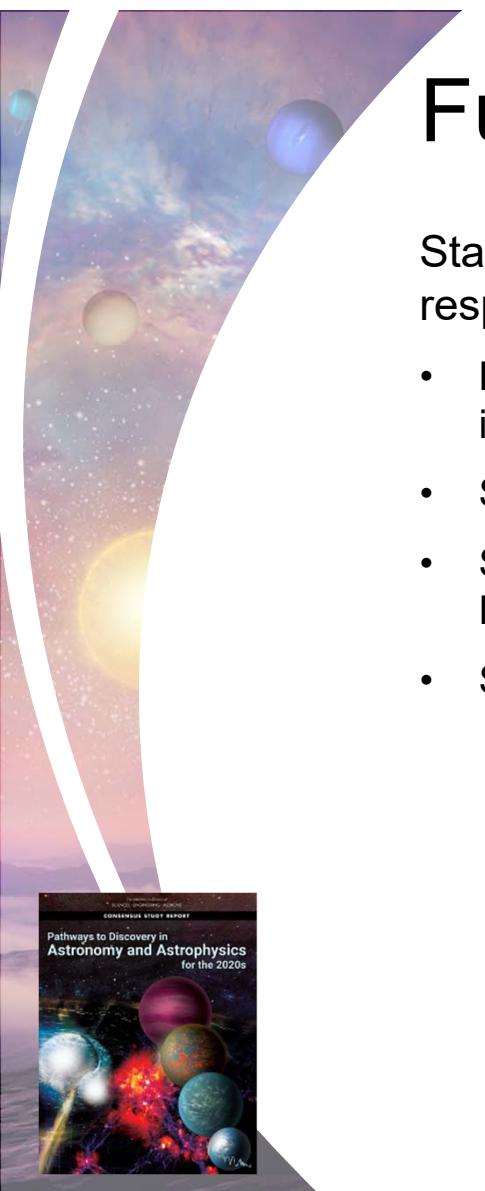
Today NASA's priority is ensuring mission success for Webb and Roman

- Webb has been launched and has begun its 6-month commissioning phase
- Roman successfully passed its Critical Design Review (CDR) and has been replanned to account for COVID impacts; the new launch commitment date is mid-2027 (7 month delay due to COVID)

Now is not the time to start a Future Great Observatory; now is the time to prepare  
NASA will take a deliberate, multi-stage planning and strategy approach to the next  
large observatory mission

- Stage 1 – Focus on enabling science and technology; begin Stage 1 now
- Stage 2 – Begin the Decadal Survey recommended “Great Observatories Maturation Program”; conduct Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) and science / technology / architecture trades; begin Stage 2 in a few years (driven by planning and budget availability)
- Stage 3 – Pre-formulation and decision to start the next Great Observatory; begin after Stage 2 complete (Decadal Survey estimates 6 years for Stage 2)

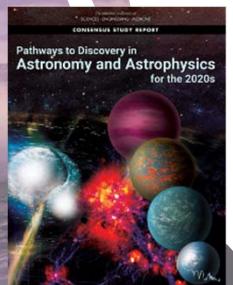


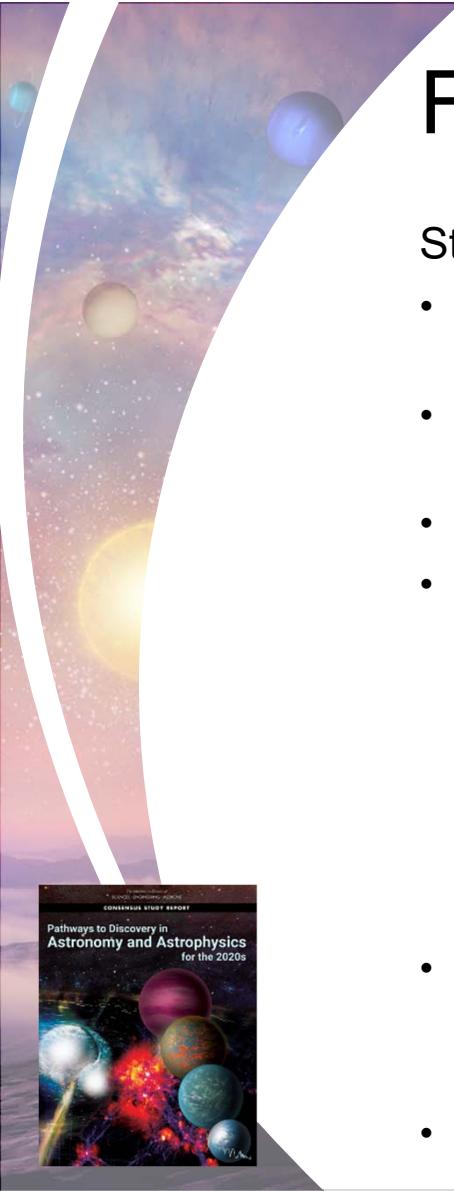


# Future Great Observatories

Stage 1: Identify and start enabling science and technology investments that are responsive to Decadal Survey science priorities for the future Great Observatories

- Lessons learned by prior missions and flagships are important to identify and implement in our future portfolio (see NASA's [Large Mission Study](#))
- Stage 1 consists of activities, not an organization, program, or project
- Stage 1 is led by NASA Headquarters Astrophysics Division and supported by existing NASA Astrophysics organizational structures (i.e., existing Astrophysics program offices))
- Stage 1 will include broad, inclusive community involvement

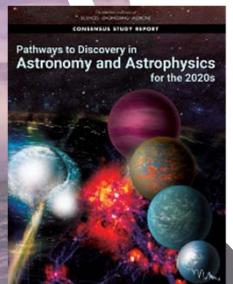


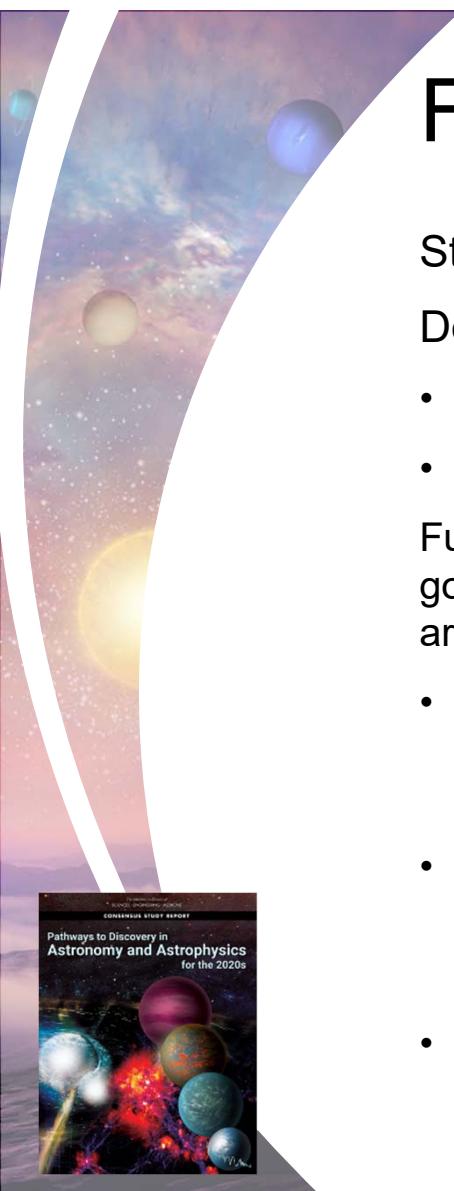


# Future Great Observatories

## Stage 1: Technology Development

- The Decadal Survey explicitly linked technology and mission concept maturation to controlling costs and enabling Future Great Observatories
- NASA is funding many technology development activities that address the Decadal Survey recommendations, funding will continue for many (but not all) activities
- NASA is updating the [Astrophysics Technology Gap List](#)
- Our existing technology ecosystem (e.g., solicitations, technology management, processes) will serve us well in this decade
  - Competed technology development activities (e.g., SAT, Strategic Astrophysics Technology) will continue
  - Directed technology development activities (e.g., NASA Center development of enabling technology for all three New Great Observatories) will continue
  - Participation by industry (e.g., System-Level Telescope Design - Technology Maturation Phase II) will continue
- Strategic technology investments going forward will be focused on strategic Decadal Survey recommendations
  - APRA remains open to all technology investment proposals
- Future activities will need community feedback from all stakeholders





# Future Great Observatories

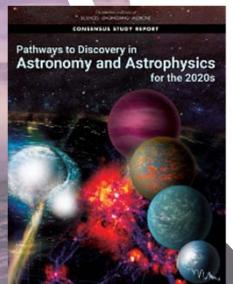
## Stage 1: Precursor Science Program

### Definitions:

- Precursor Science: Informs mission architecture/trades. Need Date: now.
- Preparatory Science: Informs data/interpretation. Need Date: by/after launch.

Future Great Observatory mission costs can be controlled by having well defined science goals. To this end, NASA will invest in science investigations that inform mission architectures and trades with a goal to reduce design and development risk where possible.

- All Future Great Observatory missions will follow the same path for precursor science implementation. This is not just a rehashing of the large mission concept studies science cases.
- Planning a series of workshops to have more discussion in April and July 2022.
  - Precursor science for all Future Great Observatories will be discussed
  - Please plan to attend!
- Precursor Science will be conducted by the community and funded through a new ROSES program element starting with ROSES-22





# Program Updates



# Importance of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA)



"The panel [on the State of the Profession and Societal Impacts] asserts that fundamentally, the pursuit of science, and scientific excellence, is inseparable from the humans who animate it."

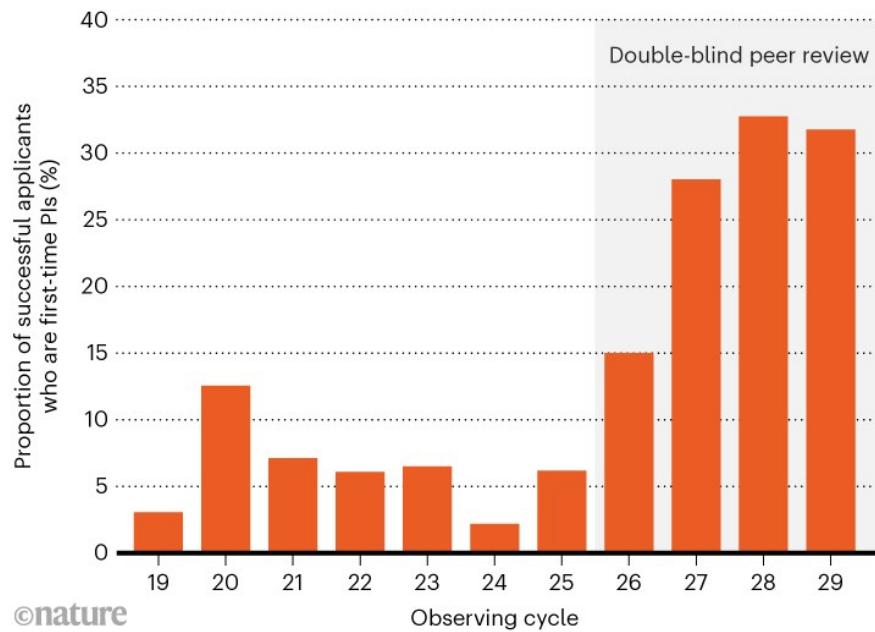
- *Pathways to Discovery in Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 2020s*

NASA is committed to integrating inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) into all activities (missions, programs, reviews, internal matters, etc.)

# SMD Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility (IDEA) Initiatives

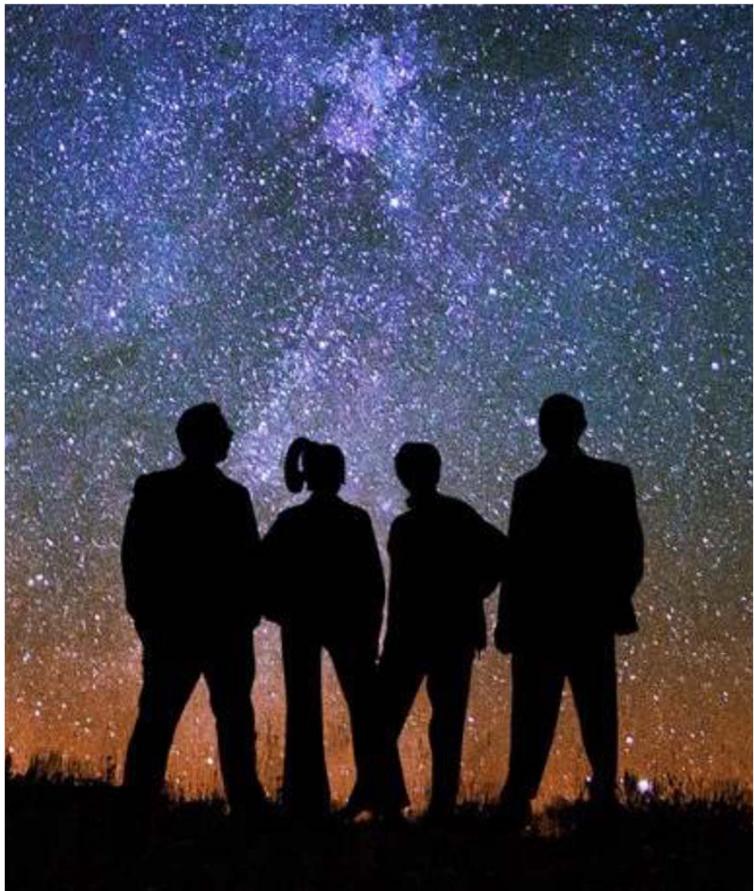
## FIRST-TIME OBSERVERS

Since the introduction of double-blind peer review for proposals in 2018 (cycle 26), higher numbers of new principal investigators have won observing time on the Hubble Space Telescope.



- University – Center – Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) bridge programs and learning workshops
- Implementing IDEA requirements in Announcement of Opportunities
- Enhanced student programs to improve access to underserved populations (Student Airborne Research Program, Rock On, data science internships)
- NASA SMD requested the National Academies examine the space mission proposal system in a study titled “[Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in the Leadership of Competed Space Missions](#)”

# Academic Award and Stipend Updates



## Graduate Students: FINESST

- This year the FINESST award is up to \$50K/year for three years, an increase of \$5K in award value
- The FINESST call for graduate student research is out at: <https://go.nasa.gov/FINESST21>
- Proposals are due February 11, 2022

## Post Doctorate: NPP

- The NASA postdoctoral fellowship base stipend will increase from \$60K to \$70K starting sometime early in 2022

# 2022 Astrophysics Research Program Elements

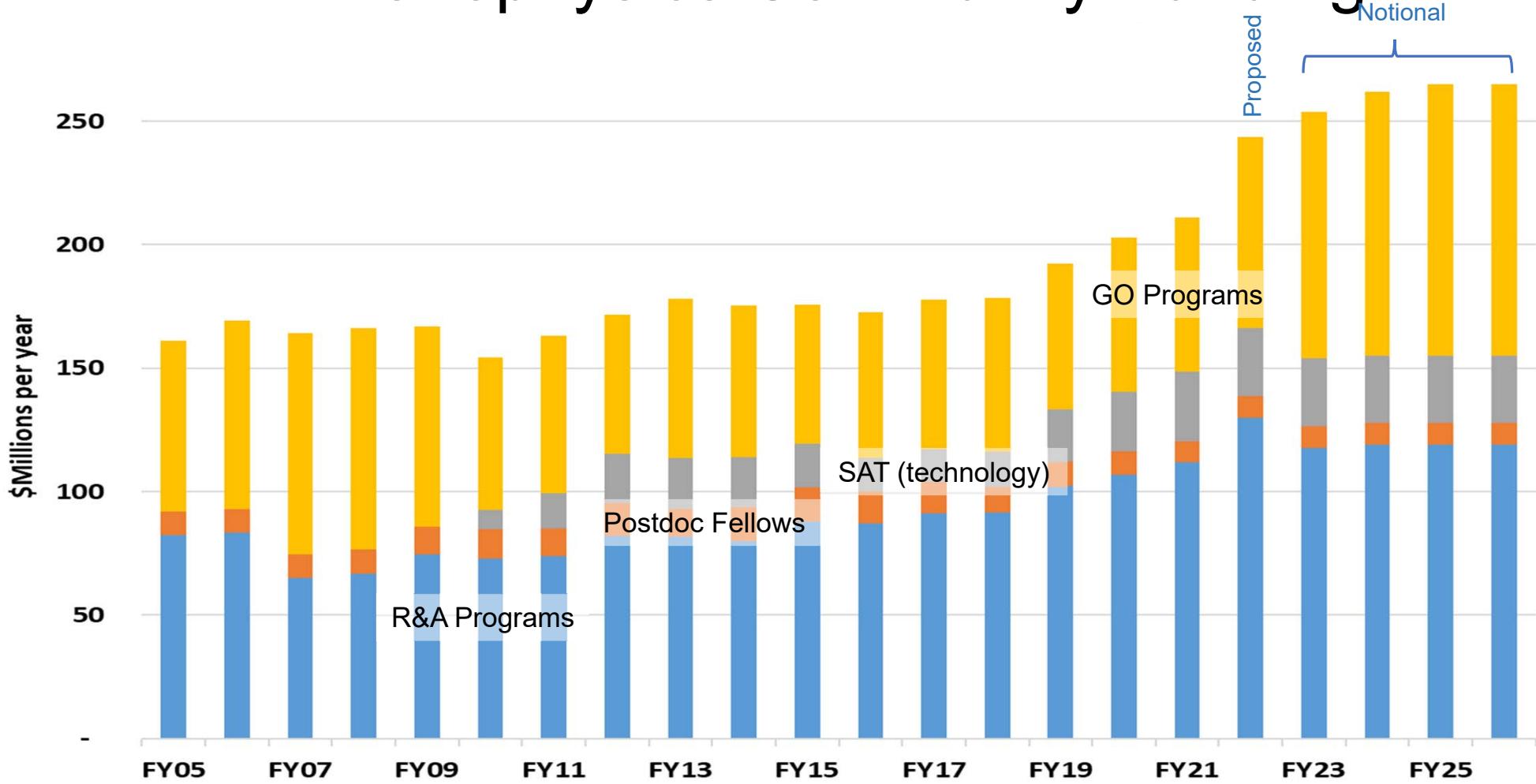
ROSES-22	Solicited Separately
<b>Supporting Research and Technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Astrophysics Research &amp; Analysis (APRA) *</li><li>• Strategic Astrophysics Technology (SAT) *</li><li>• Theoretical and Computational Astrophysics Networks (TCAN) *</li><li>• Roman Technology Fellowships (RTF)</li><li>• Precursor Science Investigations for Astro2020 DS */** New</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GO/GI/Archive/Theory programs for Hubble, Chandra, SOFIA, Webb **</li><li>• NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP)</li><li>• NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP)</li><li>• Support for XMM-Newton U.S. PIs selected by ESA</li></ul>
<b>Data Analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Astrophysics Data Analysis (ADAP) **</li><li>• GO/GI programs for Fermi, Swift, NuSTAR, TESS, NICER **</li></ul>	<b>Not solicited in ROSES-22</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Astrophysics Theory Program (ATP), every other year</li><li>• Astrophysics Explorers U.S. PIs (APEX USPI) is no longer solicited separately, now part of Astrophysics Research &amp; Analysis (R&amp;A)</li></ul>
<b>Mission Science and Instrumentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Astrophysics Pioneers (suborbital science investigations) *</li><li>• Suborbital payloads solicited through APRA *</li><li>• LISA Preparatory Science *</li><li>• Roman Research and Opportunities (moved from ROSES-2021) New</li><li>• XRISM Guest Scientist (XGS, moved from ROSES-2021) ** New</li></ul>	<b>Notice:</b> <p>ROSES-22 will be released around February 14</p> <p>* Proposals will require an inclusion plan for creating and sustaining a positive and inclusive working environment. Stay tuned for future announcement</p>
<b>Cross Divisional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exoplanets Research Program (XRP) **</li><li>• Topical Workshops, Symposia and Conferences (TWSC)</li><li>• Citizen Science Seed Funding Program</li><li>• Graduate Student Research Awards (FINESST)</li></ul>	** Proposals evaluated using dual-anonymous peer reviews

# SMD Research Catalyst Fund (RCF)



- RCF is a small SMD-level funding line designed to act as a focal point and catalyst for programmatic activities that cut across the directorate's science disciplines.
- RCF provides SMD co-funding for ROSES proposals that align with four key priorities. It is not a separate solicitation.

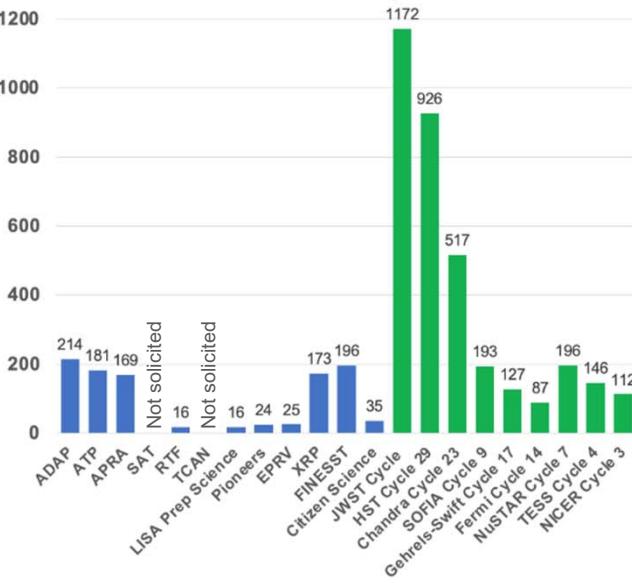
# Astrophysics Community Funding



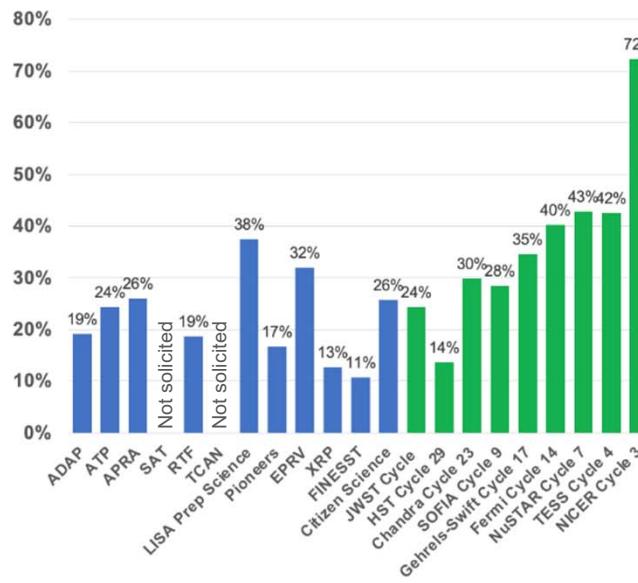
# Astrophysics R&A Proposal Status Update

December 2020-2021

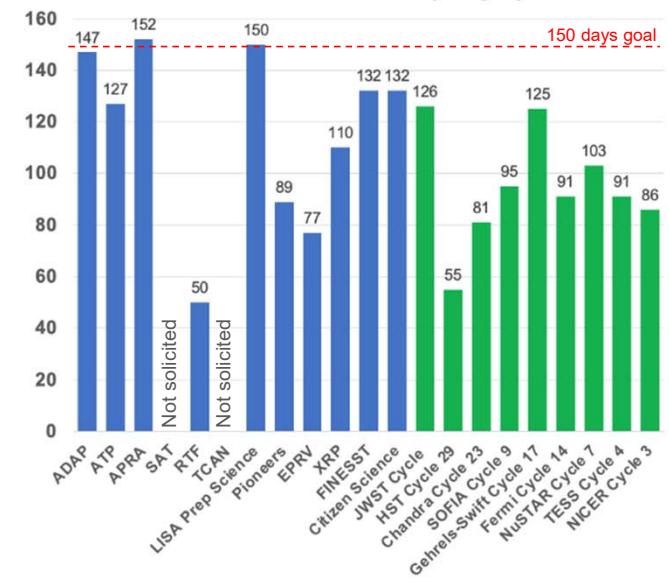
**Number of Proposals**



**Selection Rates**



**PI Notification (Days)**



R&A: 1,049 proposals  
GO/GI: 3,476 proposals  
Total: 4,525 proposals

R&A: 19%  
GO/GI: 27%  
Average: 25%

**80% of notifications**  
R&A: 147 days  
GO/GI: 126 days



# Why Volunteer to Serve on a NASA Peer Review Panel?

Personal professional development:

- See how the whole review process works
- Learn what constitutes excellent proposals
- Network with your professional colleagues and NASA scientific staff

Institutional achievement:

- Improve at competing for NASA money
- Increase knowledge of NASA's research and technology programs

Investment in the future:

- Help select the most transformative science
- Ensure that all proposals receive a fair and competent review

All reviewers receive an honorarium from NASA

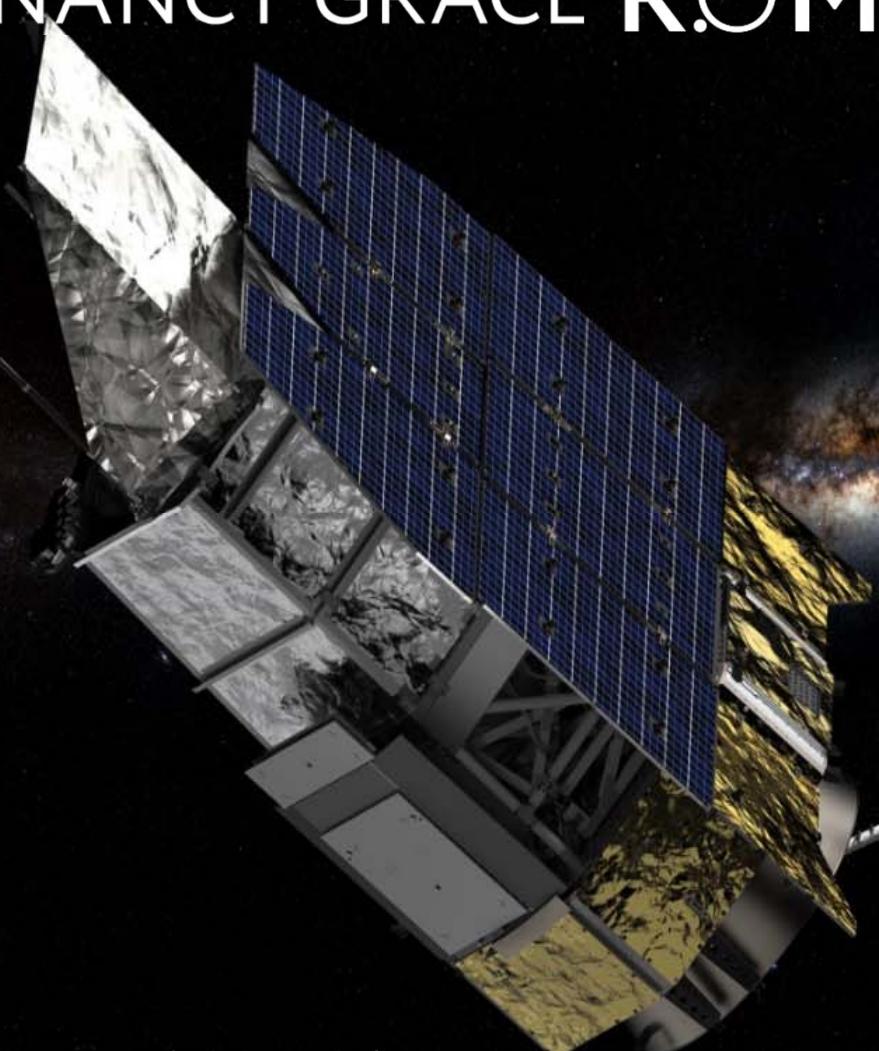
All reviews through (at least) the end of 2021 are virtual

Sign up to be a panel reviewer:

<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/volunteer-review-panels>

or contact a NASA program officer (for contact info, see  
<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/program-officers-list>)

# NANCY GRACE R.OMAN SPACE TELESCOPE



Completed the Mission Critical Design Review on September 27, 2021.

Project continues to make progress in spite of COVID inefficiencies and supply chain impacts; cost and schedule commitments have been adjusted to accommodate.

NASA launch commitment date is May 2027.

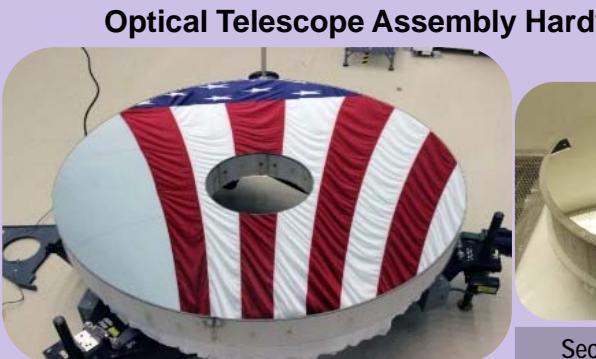
Significant flight hardware in testing or in fabrication. Full complement of flight detectors for Wide Field Instrument are already in hand. Most Coronagraph Instrument critical flight components expected to complete by spring 2022. Anticipate completing telescope in late 2022.

Opportunities for participation in Roman Space Telescope research and support are offered in ROSES-2021; draft solicitation out soon.

# NANCY GRACE R.OMAN SPACE TELESCOPE



Telescope optics for Wide Field Instrument



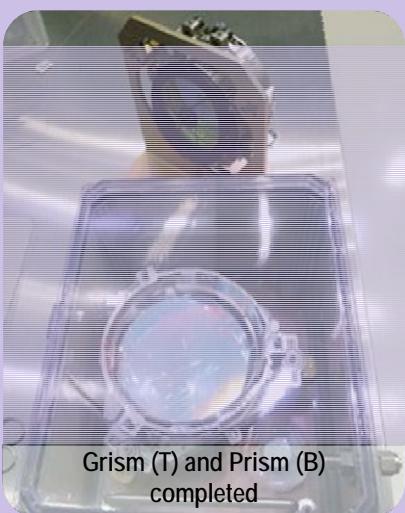
Primary Mirror (PM)



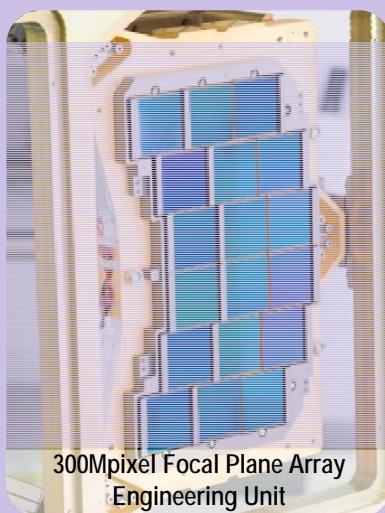
Secondary Mirror (SM)



Telescope optics for Coronagraph Instrument

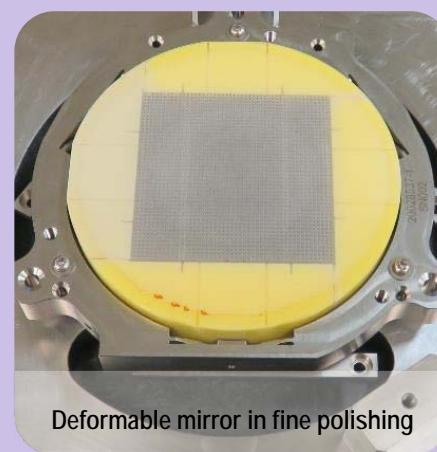


Grism (T) and Prism (B)  
completed

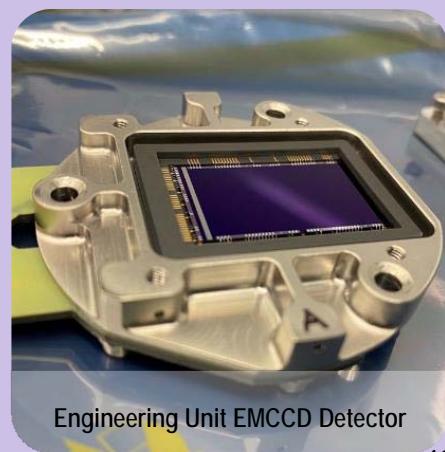


300Mpixel Focal Plane Array  
Engineering Unit

## Coronagraph Instrument Technology Demonstration Hardware



Deformable mirror in fine polishing



Engineering Unit EMCCD Detector

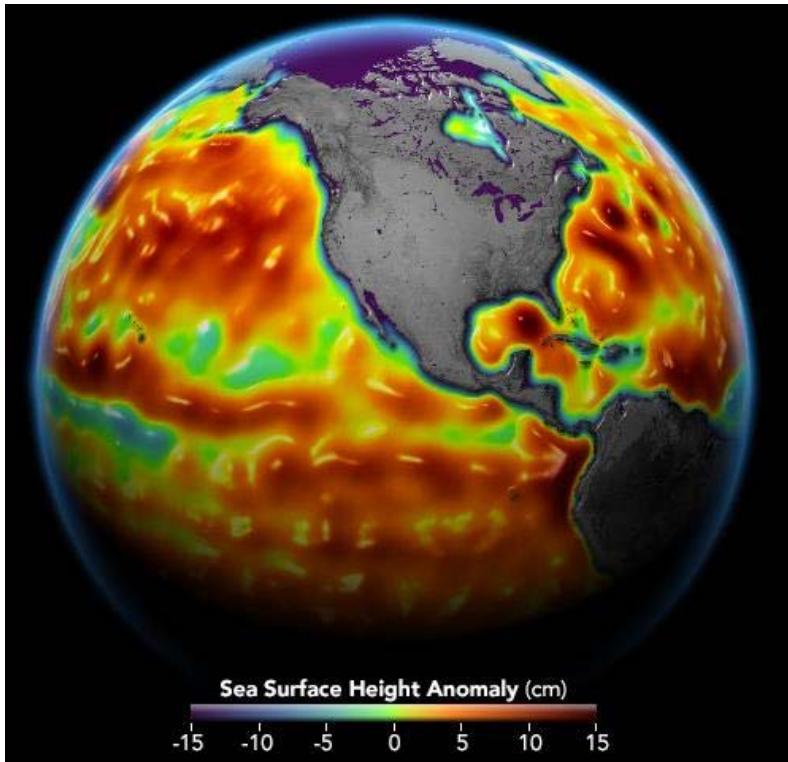


# Roman Proposal Opportunities

- Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope Research and Support Opportunities will be solicited as part of ROSES-2022 (deferred from ROSES-2021).
- Includes opportunities for Coronagraph community participation, Wide Field Instrument preparatory science, and key project infrastructure teams.
  - Coronagraph Community Participation Program: Investigators to work with the coronagraph instrument team to plan and execute tech demo observations
  - Wide Field Science: Investigators to work on science preparation activities related to mission performance verification and/or science operations preparation
  - Project Infrastructure Teams: Science teams to support scientific investigations using the data from the core community surveys

Roman Space Telescope Town Hall  
Deferred to NET Jan 24  
Details TBA

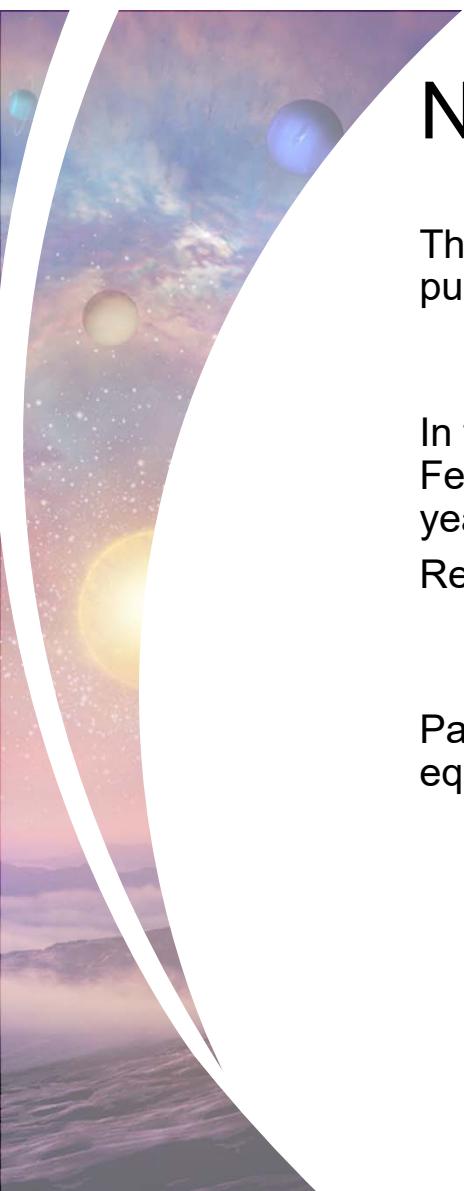
# Open-Source Science Accomplishments



- Initiated the common SMD data catalog project to enable cross-divisional data search and discovery
- Expanded access to free and open journals by modifying the Astrophysics Data System (ADS) journal database to include Planetary Science and Heliophysics
- Updated SMD's data information policy (SPD-41) to support open science by requiring missions to release scientific data, publications and software openly

SPD-41: Scientific Information Policy Town Hall  
rescheduled to Jan 26, 3-4 pm EST  
Details TBA

Questions can be sent to [HQ-SMD-SPD41@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:HQ-SMD-SPD41@mail.nasa.gov)



# NASA Hubble Fellowship Program Review

The NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP) supports outstanding postdoctoral scientists pursuing independent research that contributes to NASA Astrophysics

- Merged the previously separate Einstein, Hubble, and Sagan Fellows programs in 2017

In the summer of 2021, NASA conducted the first programmatic review of its Hubble Fellowship Program since the original Hubble Fellowship Program was created over 30 years ago

Review focused on two main areas:

1. Success of the NHFP under its current structure
2. Diversity, equity, and inclusion of the program

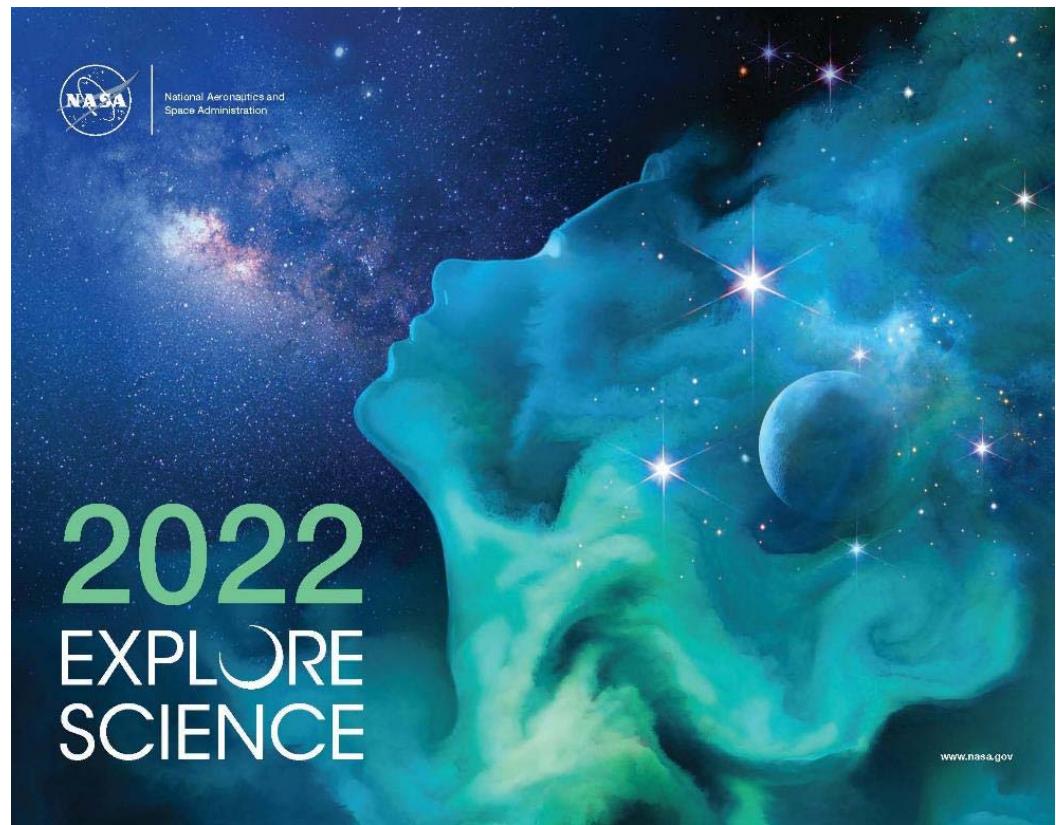
Panel convened comprised of a diverse group of astrophysicists and experts in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility

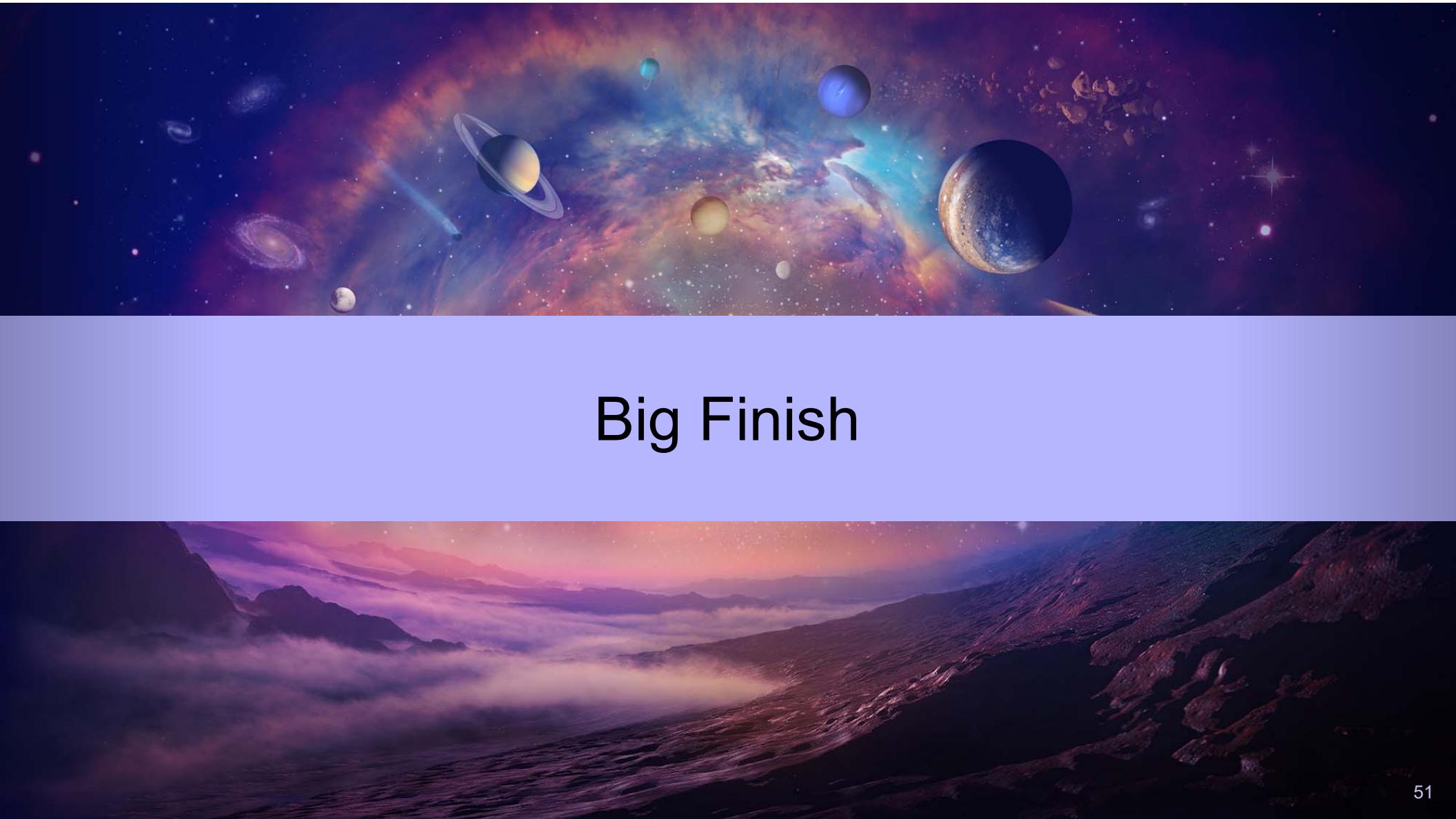
- Co-chaired by Rita Sambruna, Deputy Director of the Astrophysics Division at GSFC, and Nicolle Zellner, Program Scientist in NASA HQ's Planetary Science Division
- The panel's report is available at <https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/documents>

External Review of NASA Hubble Fellowship Program  
Webinar in February

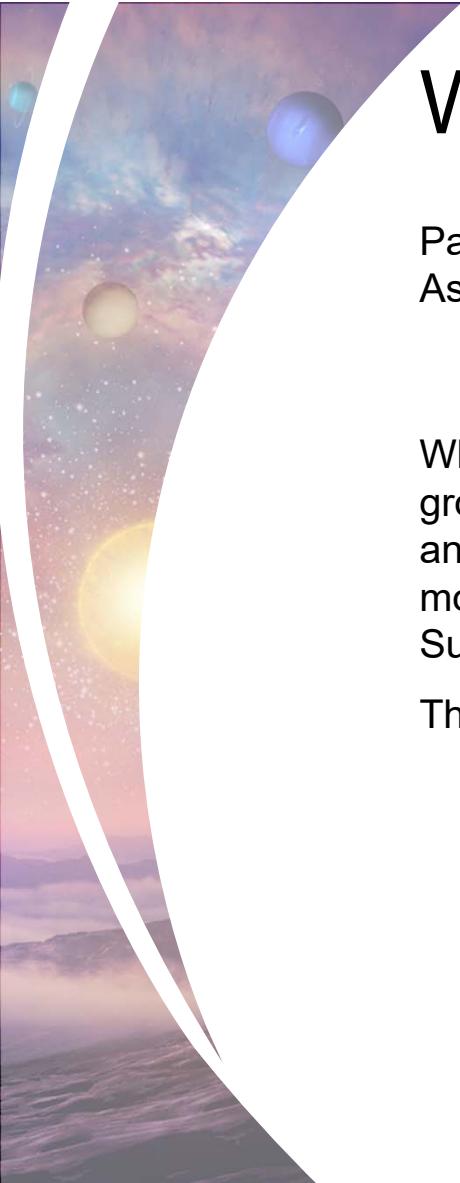
# 2022 NASA Science Calendar Distribution

- Calendars are available online, ordered through the [Government Printing Office](#), and downloadable at <https://science.nasa.gov/get-involved/toolkit/planning-guide>
- Individual requests for hardcopies may be fulfilled as resources permit by contacting [hq-public-inquiries@nasa.gov](mailto:hq-public-inquiries@nasa.gov)
- Spanish versions will be available in February 2022





# Big Finish



# What's next for Astrophysics?

Paul Hertz will be stepping down this year after more than 10 years as Director of Astrophysics (the best job at NASA)

Once the new Director of Astrophysics is in place, Hertz will move to the SMD Front Office as Senior Advisor to the SMD Associate Administrator

Who will lead NASA astrophysics in the upcoming era of increasing inclusion and diversity, growing R&A, Webb science, Roman development, exoplanet characterization, time domain and multi-messenger astrophysics, dark energy and dark matter, first Astrophysics Probe, more Explorers / Pioneers / cubesats, future great observatories, and realizing Decadal Survey priorities?

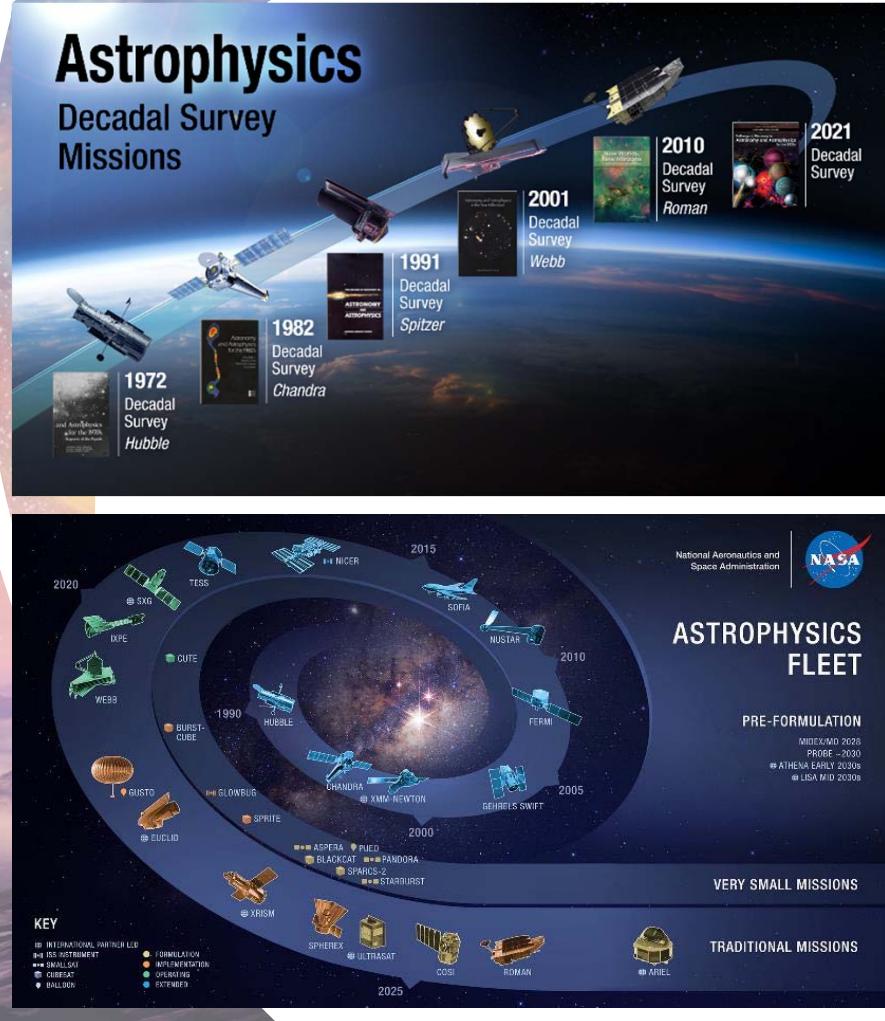
The search for the next NASA Director of Astrophysics has begun

For the job advertisement, see <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/628265700> or search for announcement number HQ-22-ES-11334214 on <https://USAJOBS.gov>

This is a Senior Executive Service (SES) position, which requires a resume and a substantial narrative job application addressing executive core qualifications and mandatory technical qualifications

The application period closes on March 21, 2022

# Astrophysics is Looking Up



Webb has launched, Roman has completed CDR  
Explorers are being competed and selected regularly  
Smaller missions (e.g., Pioneers, CubeSats, suborbital) are being competed and selected annually  
International partnerships are strong  
R&A budgets are up, suborbital capabilities are expanding  
Technology investments are being made for future missions  
NASA is prioritizing an inclusive and diverse astrophysics community, and is initiating changes to address systemic failures that limit participation by all  
An exciting Decadal Survey has been received  
The FY22 budget request supports all this PLUS contains a funding wedge for Decadal Survey priorities



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

# ASTROPHYSICS FLEET

## PRE-FORMULATION

MIDEX/MO 2028

PROBE ~2030

ATHENA EARLY 2030s

LISA MID 2030s

## VERY SMALL MISSIONS

## TRADITIONAL MISSIONS

### KEY

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER LED

ISS INSTRUMENT

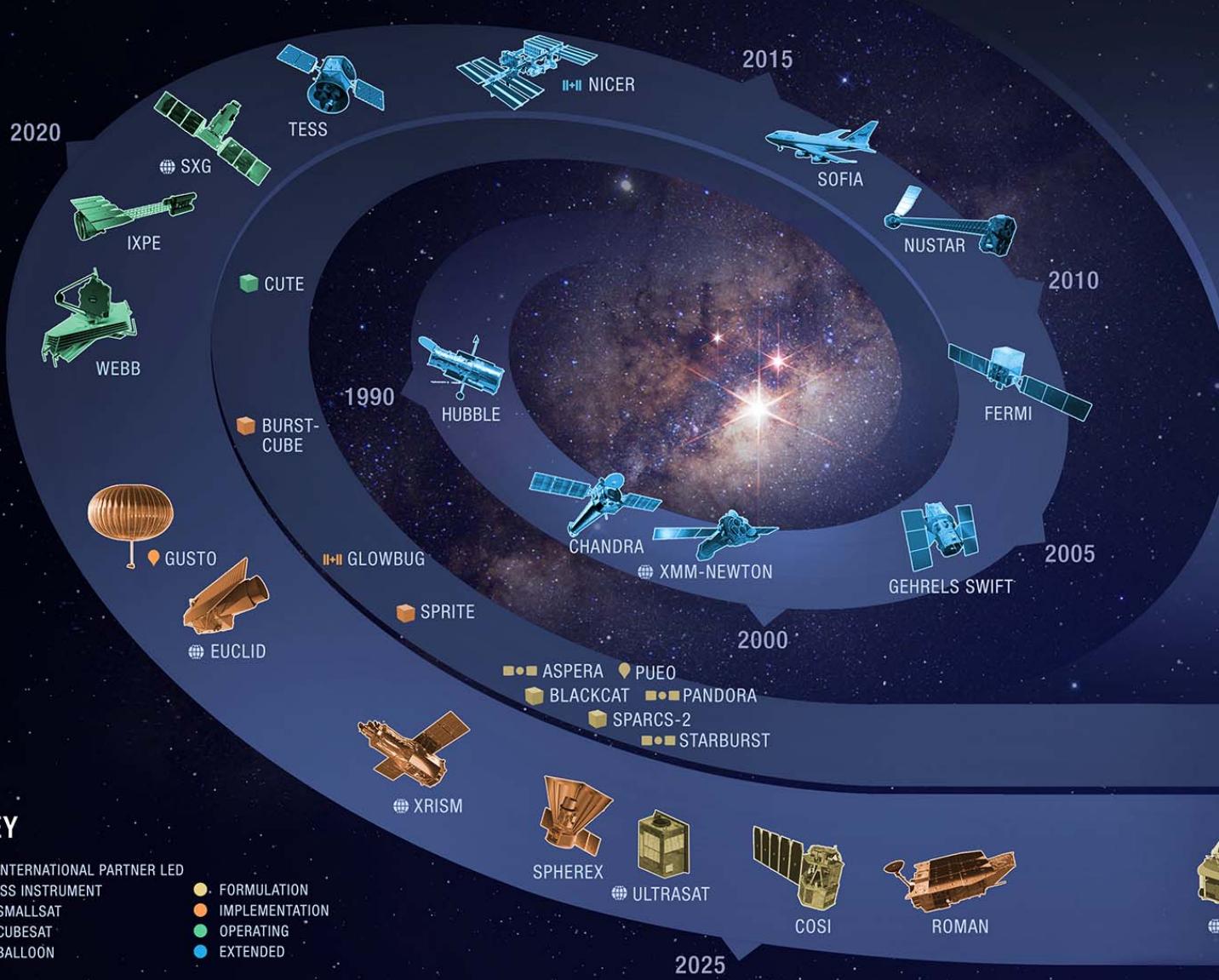
SMALLSAT

CUBESAT

BALLOON

- FORMULATION
- IMPLEMENTATION
- OPERATING
- EXTENDED

2025





# BACKUP



# Improving Inclusion at NASA



**Inclusion** – NASA is committed to a culture of diversity, inclusion, and equity, where all employees feel welcome, respected, and engaged. To achieve the greatest mission success, NASA embraces hiring, developing, and growing a diverse and inclusive workforce in a positive and safe work environment where individuals can be authentic. This value will enable NASA to attract the best talent, grow the capabilities of the entire workforce, and empower everyone to fully contribute.



Strategy 4.1: Increase the diversity of thought and backgrounds represented across the entire SMD portfolio through a more inclusive and accessible environment.

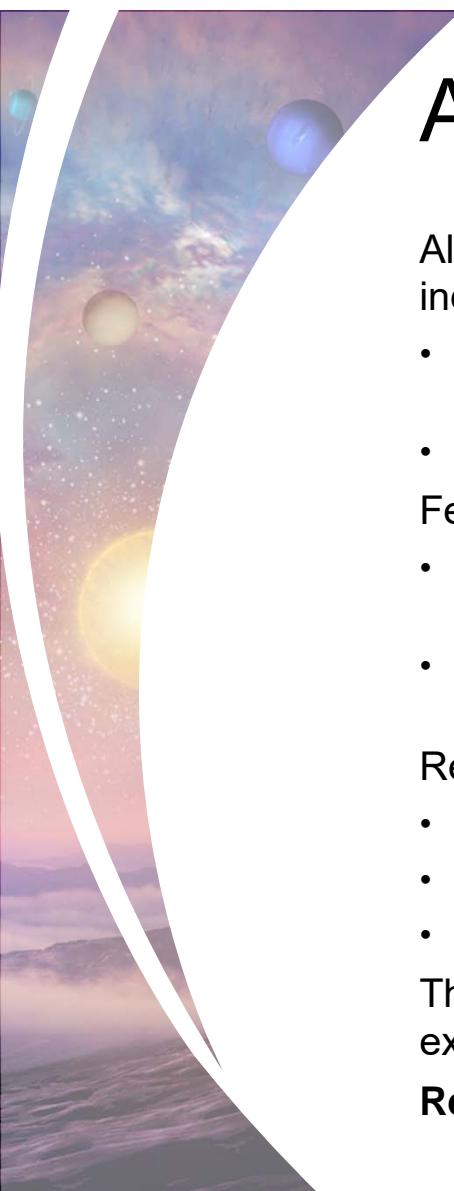
ROSES: SMD's goals are to develop a workforce and scientific community that reflects the diversity of the country and to instill a culture of inclusion across its entire portfolio.

# Building Excellent NASA Teams Requires Inclusion and Diversity

At NASA, we recognize that excellence is only achieved with inclusive and diverse teams. We are creating a multi-pronged approach.

- Standing up a long-term internal activity focused on sustained engagement, systemic, and lasting changes.
- Modifying requirements for AOs to align with NASA's core value of Inclusion; [draft modifications released for community comment](#).
- [Piloting inclusion plans as an evaluation criterion for R&A programs](#).
- Requesting funding (starting in FY22) to establish Bridge Programs supporting MSIs and HBCUs.
- Increasing Science Activation program to support diversity and inclusion initiatives.
- Hosting [incubator workshops](#) and implementing actions from those workshops focused on short-term changes to how we are operating and how we grow our leaders.
- [National Academies study of barriers to inclusion in mission leadership](#).
- [Adopted a Code of Conduct to improve the inclusion and process of our panels and teams](#).
- Proposal Processes: Recognizing we have influence through our calls for proposals and what we reward in our selections. [Piloting dual-anonymous peer review and seeking to expand that](#). Actively looking into how we can be a model for inclusivity.





# ATP Inclusion Criterion Pilot Program

All ROSES-21 Astrophysics Theory Program (ATP) proposals were required to include an inclusion plan.

- The inclusion plans were evaluated for adequacy and completeness. In addition to the 20 science panels (which evaluated all 182 proposals), there were 4 inclusion panels.
- Inclusion panels made up of astronomers active in DEI and DEI experts over a range of related fields

Feedback was provided to the proposers as part of the panel review summaries.

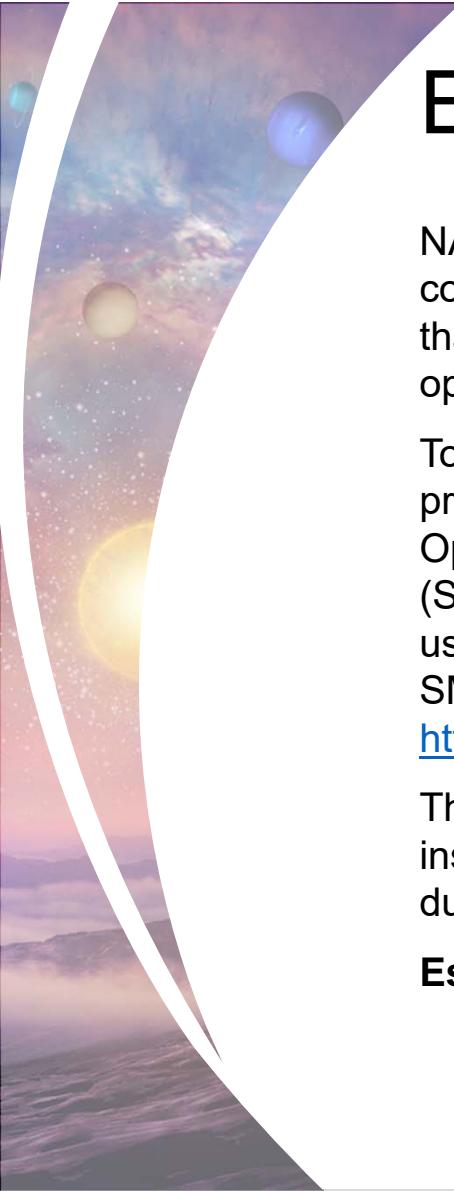
- The feedback was not folded into the adjectival ratings or selection recommendations in the current ROSES cycle, but may in future cycles
- Inclusion panels produced a lessons learned document on how to refine the solicitation and evaluation to best incorporate our inclusion goals as a selection criterion in future reviews

Recommendations from DEI expert panels:

- Inclusion can be effectively incorporated into our review process
- Specialized panels of DEI experts should review inclusion plans
- DEIA should be a criterion in evaluation of proposals

The inclusion plan pilot has already been expanded to ROSES-21 PRISM and will be expanded to other programs in ROSES-22

**Requiring inclusion plans with proposals is responsive to the Decadal Survey**



# Establishing New AO Requirements

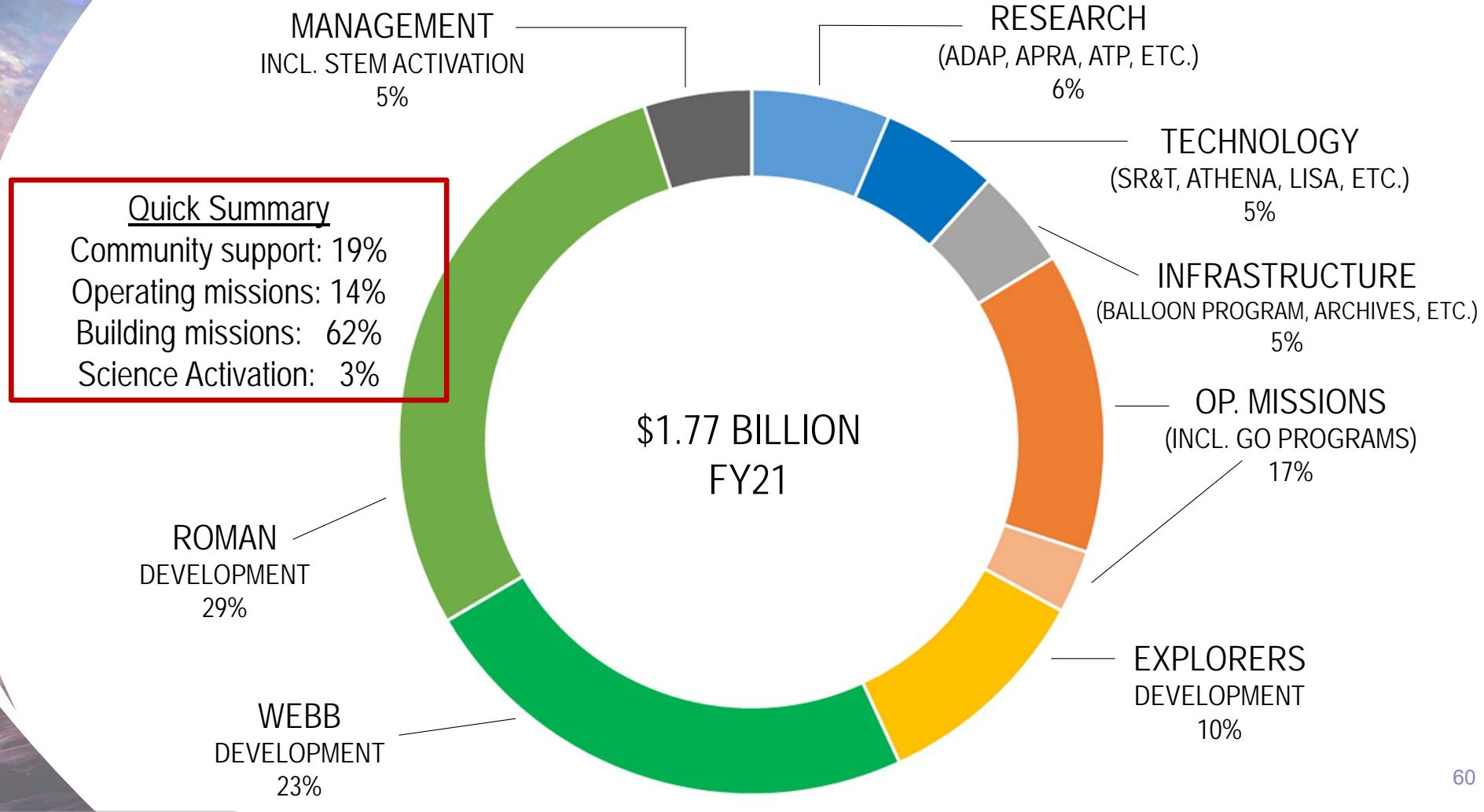
NASA expects that inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) will be reflected in the composition of all Announcement of Opportunity (AO) proposal teams. NASA also expects that all AO mission projects will clearly define the principles by which team members can operate in an inclusive and equitable environment.

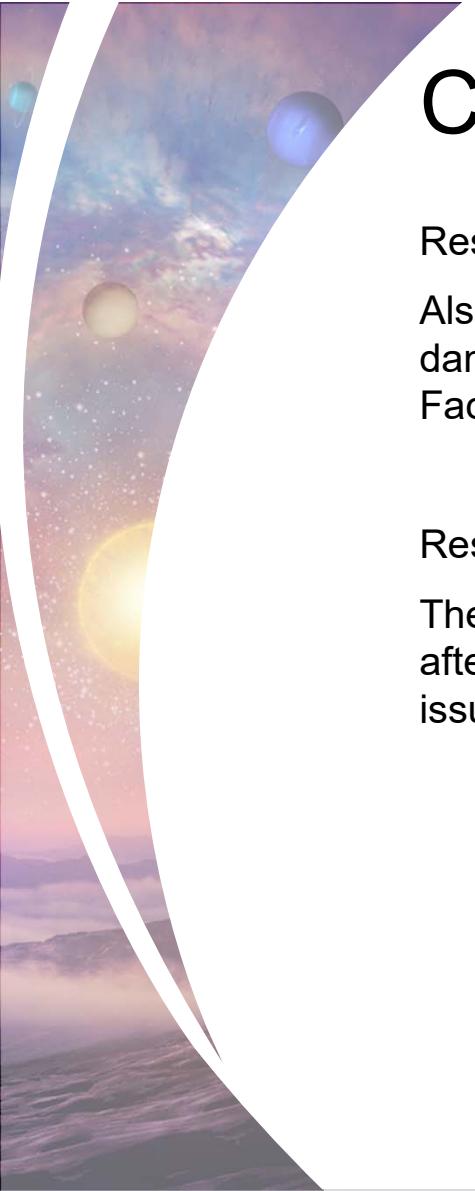
To meet NASA's expectations regarding the reflection of IDEA values in the composition of proposed mission teams, SMD plans to add language to future Announcements of Opportunity (AO) and amend the currently open Stand-Alone Mission of Opportunity Notice (SALMON-3). Proposers will be required to describe in their proposal how the processes used 1) to assemble the proposed team and 2) to execute the proposed project aligned with SMD's IDEA values, including the NASA Policy Statement on Diversity and Inclusion at <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/odeo/policy-and-publications>.

The full text of SMD's IDEA RFI, including the proposed new AO language and response instructions can be found at short URL: <https://go.nasa.gov/3xSsOP1>. RFI responses were due on November 3, 2021 and are currently being reviewed.

**Establishing IDEA requirements for AO proposals is responsive to the Decadal Survey**

# Astrophysics Budget – FY21 Op Plan





# Continuing Resolutions

Resolution 1: - Funded Government at FY21 levels through Dec 3, 2021 (9 weeks)

Also provides supplemental disaster relief funds including \$321.4 million for NASA to cover damage from Hurricane Zeta in 2020 and Hurricane Ida in 2021 at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans and Stennis Space Center in Mississippi

Resolution 2: - Funds Government at FY21 levels through Feb 18, 2022 (11 weeks)

The CR also includes a provision that removes the cap on funding Webb development costs after December 31st. Webb would have exceeded the cap due to a combination of technical issues, COVID impacts, and a launch vehicle delay.

# Astrophysics FY22 Budget Request

**Requests \$1,575.5 M for NASA Astrophysics (including Webb) in FY 2022 (submitted May 2021)**

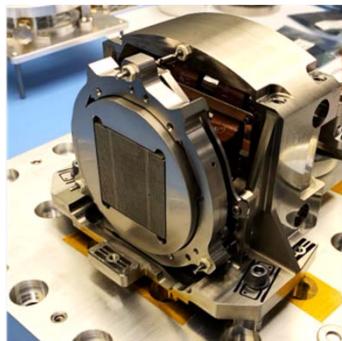
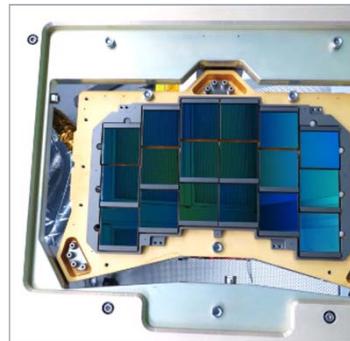
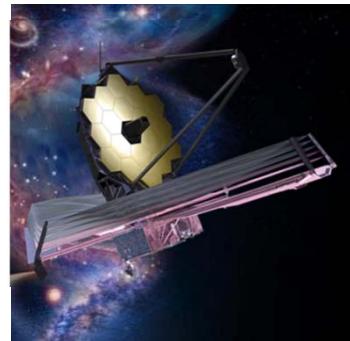
## **What's Changed compared to runout of previous budget request**

- Funds continued development of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope and estimated COVID impacts
- Plans for an Astrophysics Probe-class mission, an increase in R&A, and other initiatives pending receipt of the Decadal Survey
- Four Astrophysics Pioneers conducting mission concept studies
- Enhanced facilities and open science initiatives within research program (e.g., laboratory equipment upgrades, extreme precision radial velocity program, formulation for integrating data archives with cloud computing)
- Science activation increases to support diversity and inclusion initiatives

## **What's the Same compared to runout of previous budget request**

- Webb on track to launch in 2021
- Proposes termination of SOFIA due to its high cost and lower scientific productivity than other missions
- Hubble, Chandra, and other operating missions continue
- Supports development of IXPE, GUSTO, SPHEREx, and contributions to XRISM, Euclid, ARIEL
- Maintains Astrophysics Explorers cadence including both SMEX downselect and MIDEX AO in 2021
- CubeSat initiative and balloon campaigns within healthy research program

# Planned Milestones FY21-22



- ✓ Complete integration and launch Webb in 2021
- ✓ Complete integration and test for IXPE and launch in 2021
- ✓ Achieve Roman Space Telescope critical design review in 2021
- ✓ Maintain decadal cadence of four AOs per decade for Astrophysics Explorers and Missions of Opportunity with a SMEX downselect and a MIDEX AO in 2021
- ✓ Receive Astrophysics Decadal Survey in 2021
- Achieve SPHEREx critical design review in 2022
- Conduct Senior Review of Operating Missions in 2022
- Begin Webb science operations in 2022
- Generate world-class science from operating missions including Hubble Space Telescope and Chandra X-ray Observatory
- Maintain healthy research program including suborbital-class missions, technology development, data analysis, theoretical and computational investigations, and laboratory astrophysics
- Plan formulation or solicitation for a Probe mission in 2022
- Support mission concept studies and technology investments to implement Astrophysics Decadal Survey priorities starting in 2022

# Astrophysics FY22 Budget Mark-up

	Request \$M	House \$M	Senate \$M	Comments
<b>Webb</b>	175.4	175.4	175.4	
<b>Astrophysics</b>	1,400.2	1,446.3	1,400.2	House adds \$46.1M
<b>Hubble</b>	98.3		98.3	
<b>SOFIA</b>	0	85.2		House rejects the Administration's request to terminate SOFIA; Senate is silent
<b>Roman</b>	501.6	501.6	501.6	House: include continued development of coronagraph tech demonstration Senate: reiterates cost cap
<b>Explorers</b>	300.4	277.7	300.4	House cuts \$22.7M; Senate declines cut and compliments Explorers cadence and Pioneers
<b>Research</b>	285.5	279.1	285.5	House cuts \$6.4M; Senate declines cut
<b>Rest of Astrophysics</b>	312.7 (H)	302.7		House cuts \$10.0M (undistributed)
	214.4 (S)		214.4	Senate mark matches request

# COVID-19 Impacts – Missions

Many missions are expected to stay within their cost commitments (known as the ABC or Agency Baseline Commitment, which includes HQ held reserves above project budget)

- ABC is set at Confirmation Review

Some missions have experienced challenges that affect cost and schedule commitments

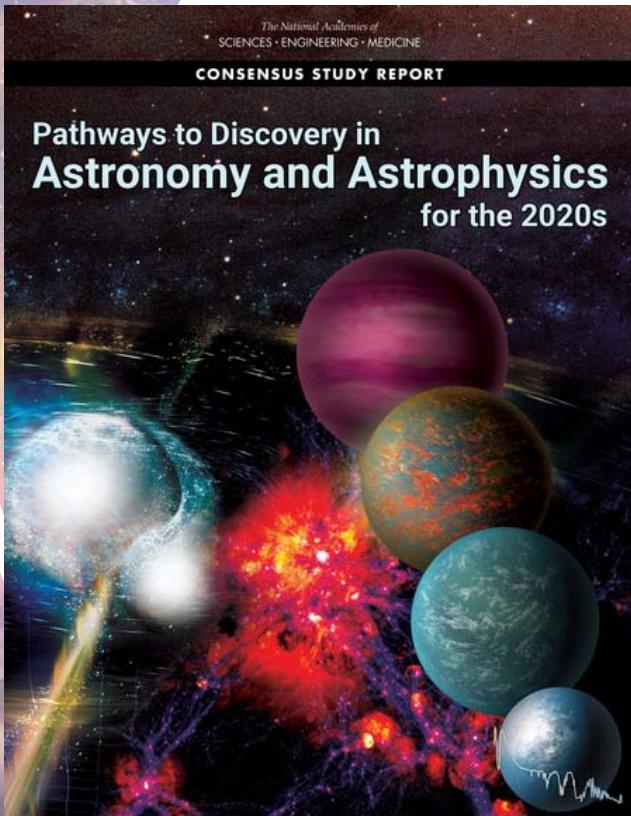
- In astrophysics, this includes Webb, Roman, and IXPE
- Missions that have been Confirmed since COVID began (e.g., SPHEREx), or will be Confirmed in the future (e.g., future Explorers) have assumed impacts from COVID included within their cost and schedule commitments

To date, challenges to Flagships (Webb, Roman) have been accommodated with no impact to Explorers or R&A

- Challenges to Explorers are accommodated within the Explorers Program

Mission impacts to commitments due to COVID (only missions with commitments)			
Webb	Exceeds schedule*	XRISM	Does not exceed
IXPE	Exceeds cost and schedule*	SPHEREx	Included in commitment
GUSTO	Does not exceed	Roman	Exceeds cost and schedule*
Euclid	Does not exceed	* Replan has been completed and approved	

# NASA and the 2020 Decadal Survey

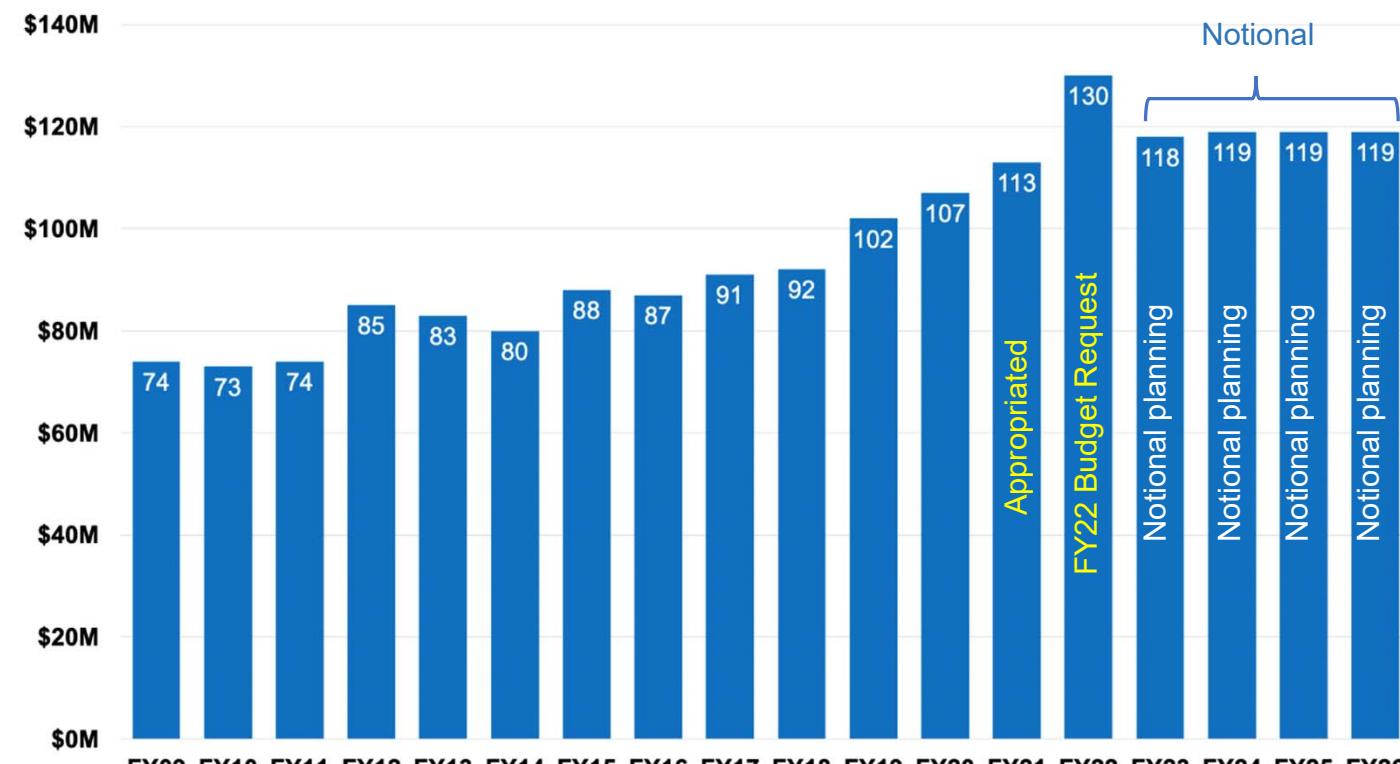


- We are bound by the budgets that we have
  - First budget that is fully informed by the Decadal Survey will be the FY24 budget proposal which will be submitted to Congress in February 2023
- Near term milestones (anticipated)
  - January 2022: NASA Town Hall @ AAS Meeting – Will comment on recommendations that can be accommodated within the FY22 budget request
  - Spring 2022: Community Town Hall – Next of many Town Halls to communicate NASA's plans on implementing the “Pathways to Discovery” report recommendations, including those that can be accommodated within the FY23 budget request
  - NLT Early 2023: NASA publishes initial Implementation Plan for “Pathways to Discovery” report recommendations; NASA submits FY24-FY28 five-year budget plan that is fully informed by the “Pathways to Discovery” report

# Recent R&A Initiatives

- **Exoplanet Research Program Consolidation:** all exoplanet investigations are now under XRP
- **Laboratory Astrophysics:** starting in ROSES-20, capital equipment purchases are eligible under APRA
- **FINESST:** doubled funding allocation to achieve selection rates >10% for graduate student program. Starting in ROSES-22, student stipend will increase from \$45k to \$50k/year for up to three years each
- **Citizen Science:** cross-divisional SMD solicitation for Citizen Science Seed Funding
- **Data Management Plan:** now part of the intrinsic merit evaluation of proposals
- **Open Source, Tools, Frameworks, and Libraries** support through cross-divisional SMD solicitation
- **Dual-Anonymous Peer Review (DAPR):** most Astrophysics and cross-divisional research programs are evaluated using the dual-anonymous peer review process to mitigate biases. All Astrophysics GO/GI programs have permanently converted the peer reviews to DAPR
- **Code of Conduct and Bias training** are provided for all reviewers before the start of peer reviews
- **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility:** established IDEA taskforce for Astrophysics, working closely with and implementing recommendations of SMD's IDEA and Anti-Racism Action Group task forces
- **Inclusion Plan:** implemented as a pilot program for 2021 Astrophysics Theory Program (ATP) to increase the diversities of the proposing teams

# R&A Research Funding



Sustained growth in R&A research funding since the 2010 Decadal Survey

Since the last Decadal Survey:  
+38% R&A funding growth

Notional Planning:  
+60% over 17 years.

For the last 12 months (August 2020 – August 2021), the selection rates were 23% for R&A programs and 46% for smaller mission's general observer (GO)/guest investigator (GI) programs\*, with a total average selection rate of 35% for all our ROSES programs

\* Does not include Hubble, Chandra, SOFIA

# SPD-41: Scientific Information Policy

[SMD Policy Directive-41](#) is the **SMD-wide policy on data, software and information.**

- Consolidation of existing policies and laws applicable to SMD.
- Applies to all SMD-funded activities related to producing scientific information. *The policy excludes restricted information such as ITAR, export control, CUI.*
- A new Request for Information (RFI) solicits feedback on SPD-41, including support needed for successful implementation and proposed additions: [go.nasa.gov/RFISPD41](http://go.nasa.gov/RFISPD41). **Responses are due Feb 11, 2022.**
- **Townhall on the SPD-41 RFI scheduled for Jan 26, 2022 at 3 pm EST.**

# SPD-41: Highlights and *Proposed Additions*

Publications	Data	Software
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open and publicly accessible</li><li>• <i>Open access publications and sharing as preprints are encouraged</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mission data will be shared with no period of exclusive access</li><li>• <i>Data shall be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Mission software is developed openly</i></li><li>• <i>Research software released as open-source software with a permissive license</i></li></ul>

# NASA's Open-Source Science Initiative

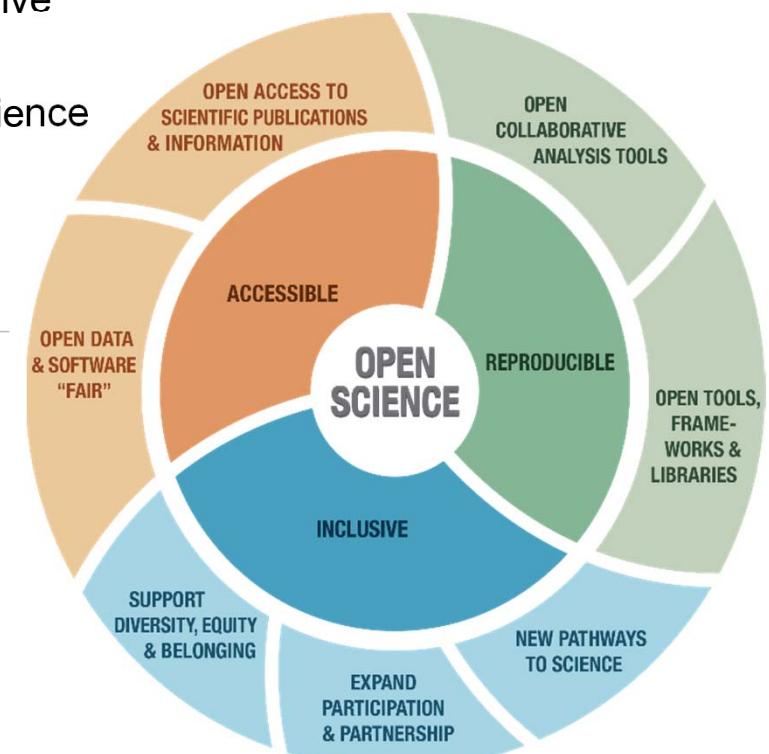
NASA is making a long-term commitment to support building an inclusive open science community over the next decade. This initiative is a comprehensive program of activities to enable and support moving science toward openness.

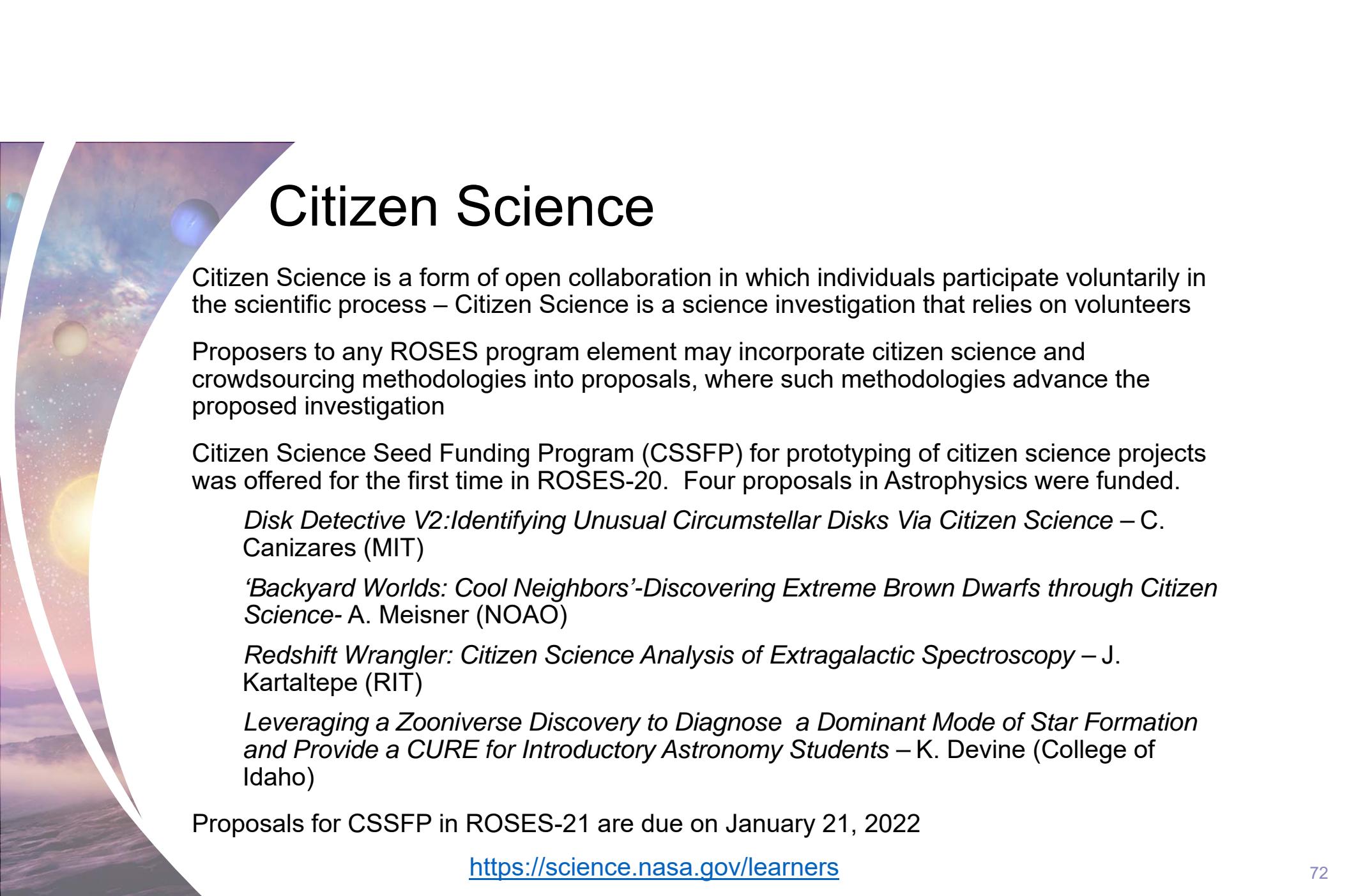


## TRANSFORM TO OPEN SCIENCE (TOPS)

**NASA's TOPS initiative** is a 5-year effort focused on accelerating scientific discovery and inclusivity through open science. Focus areas include:

- **Capacity building:** teaching and learning resources to enable open science
- **Partner and community engagement:** collaborating with communities to enable a culture of open science
- **Incentives:** certificates and awards programs, prizes and challenges





# Citizen Science

Citizen Science is a form of open collaboration in which individuals participate voluntarily in the scientific process – Citizen Science is a science investigation that relies on volunteers

Proposers to any ROSES program element may incorporate citizen science and crowdsourcing methodologies into proposals, where such methodologies advance the proposed investigation

Citizen Science Seed Funding Program (CSSFP) for prototyping of citizen science projects was offered for the first time in ROSES-20. Four proposals in Astrophysics were funded.

*Disk Detective V2:Identifying Unusual Circumstellar Disks Via Citizen Science* – C. Canizares (MIT)

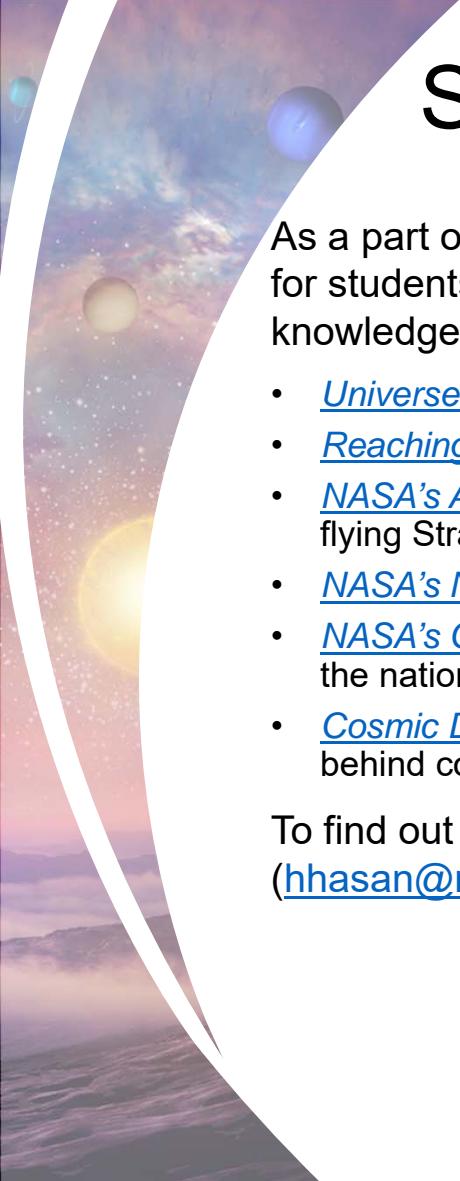
*'Backyard Worlds: Cool Neighbors'-Discovering Extreme Brown Dwarfs through Citizen Science*- A. Meisner (NOAO)

*Redshift Wrangler: Citizen Science Analysis of Extragalactic Spectroscopy* – J. Kartaltepe (RIT)

*Leveraging a Zooniverse Discovery to Diagnose a Dominant Mode of Star Formation and Provide a CURE for Introductory Astronomy Students* – K. Devine (College of Idaho)

Proposals for CSSFP in ROSES-21 are due on January 21, 2022

<https://science.nasa.gov/learners>



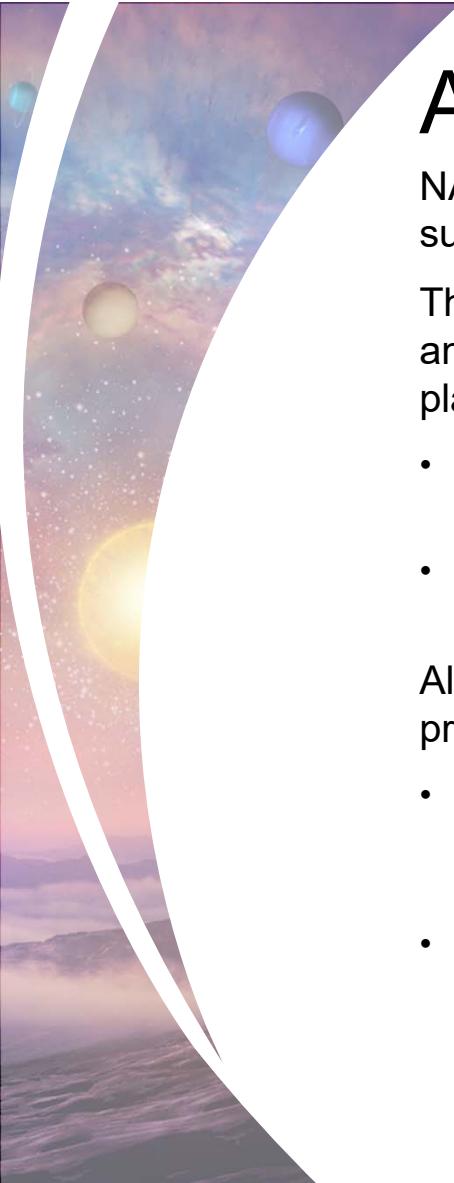
# Science Activation

As a part of NASA's Science Activation (SciAct) program, Astrophysics provides exciting opportunities for students, educators and the public across the spectrum to engage in activities that enrich their knowledge of the Universe

- [Universe of Learning](#) provides numerous resources and experiences
- [Reaching for the Stars](#) has created badges to engage Girl Scouts
- [NASA's Airborne Astronomy Program](#) has created curriculum for schools and trained educators on NASA's flying Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)
- [NASA's Neurodiversity Network](#) brings astronomy to neurodiverse learners with a focus to the autism spectrum
- [NASA's Community College Network](#) brings astronomy resources into the classroom in communities across the nation
- [Cosmic Data Stories](#) engages the learner to use data science and visualization techniques to interrogate data behind cosmic discoveries

To find out how you can participate as a subject matter expert please contact Hashima Hasan ([hhasan@nasa.gov](mailto:hhasan@nasa.gov)) or the PIs of Astrophysics SciAct projects

<https://science.nasa.gov/learners>



# Astrophysics and the Moon

NASA Astrophysics has no strategic missions or strategic activities planned for the lunar surface, Gateway, or cis-lunar space

The Astrophysics Decadal Survey was charged to “Consider ongoing and planned activities and capabilities in other organizational units of NASA, including ... planned research platforms in Earth orbit and cis-lunar space.”

- NASA has sponsored a concept study of a radio observatory on the radio-quiet far side of the Moon, plus other related radio astronomy concepts
- The Decadal Survey made no recommendations regarding the use of planned NASA capabilities for the lunar surface, Gateway, or cis-lunar space

All science opportunities for lunar surface, Gateway, and cis-lunar space are open for proposed, competitive, PI-led, peer reviewed astrophysics activities

- This includes Payloads and Research Investigations on the Surface of the Moon (PRISM) (open to astrophysics on the lunar surface), Explorers including Missions of Opportunity (open to missions in cis-lunar space), and Pioneers (open to lunar surface and cis-lunar space missions)
- To date, three lunar landed experiments with relevance to astrophysics have been selected: a next generation laser retroreflector for general relativity tests and two technology demonstrations for measuring cosmic radio waves

# Astrophysics Mission Classes

DECadal Survey	EXPLORER AO		SALMON AO		ROSES	
>\$1B	\$1B	\$450M	\$225M	\$80M	\$40M	\$20M
<b>&gt;\$2B</b> LARGE CLASS Great Observatory or Flagship	<b>~\$450M</b> SMALL CLASS Medium Explorer (MIDEX) PICC \$300M*	<b>~\$225M</b> SMALL CLASS Small Explorer (SMEX) PICC \$145M*	<b>\$80M</b> SMALL CLASS Standard Mission of Opportunity <small>**</small>	<b>\$40M</b> SMALL CLASS SmallSat Mission of Opportunity <small>**</small>	<b>\$20M</b> SMALL CLASS Pioneers SmallSat <small>**</small>	<b>\$20M</b> SUBORBITAL Pioneers Balloon
<b>~\$1.5B</b> MEDIUM CLASS Probe PICC \$1B*				<b>\$5M</b> SMALL CLASS APRA CubeSat	<b>\$5M</b> SUBORBITAL APRA Balloon	<b>\$10M</b> SUBORBITAL APRA Balloon
						<b>\$5M</b> SUBORBITAL APRA Sounding Rocket

Updated December 11, 2021

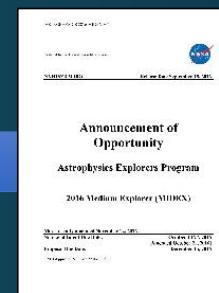
\*PI Cost Cap

\*\*Includes ISS-attached Experiments

# Astrophysics Explorers Program



4 AOs per decade



MIDEX  
2011

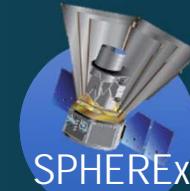
SMEX  
2014

MIDEX  
2016

SMEX  
2019

MIDEX  
2021

Small and  
Mid-Size  
Missions



Missions of  
Opportunity

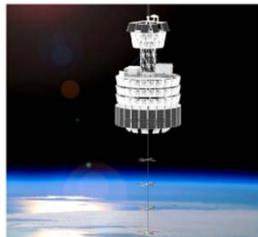


# Astrophysics Pioneers

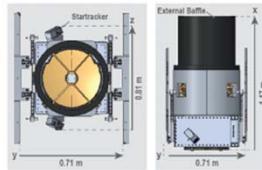
- A new class of small missions solicited annually in ROSES. Includes SmallSats, CubeSats >6U, major balloon payloads, modest ISS attached payloads, and lunar surface CLPS payloads; \$20M maximum PI cost cap
- Fills in the gap between existing ROSES investigations (<\$10M for APRA) and existing Explorers MO investigations (~\$35M for SmallSats)

## Astrophysics Pioneers – Cycle 1 Selections

**PUEO:** A Long-duration Balloon-borne Instrument for Particle Astrophysics at the Highest Energies (PI Abigail Vieregg, U. Chicago)  
**APPROVED for DEVELOPMENT**



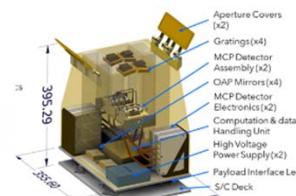
**Pandora:** Multiwavelength Characterization of Exoplanets and their Host Stars (PI Elisa Quintana, NASA GSFC)  
**APPROVED for DEVELOPMENT**



**StarBurst:** Gamma-ray ASM, Simultaneous detection of NS/NS mergers with LIGO (PI Daniel Kocevski, NASA MSFC)  
**APPROVED for DEVELOPMENT**

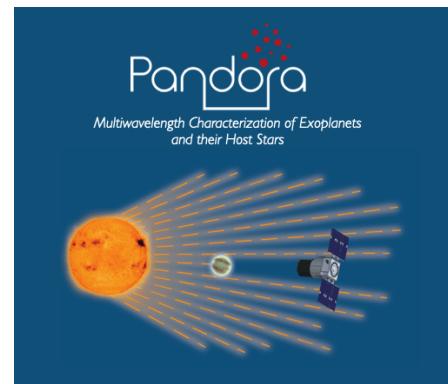
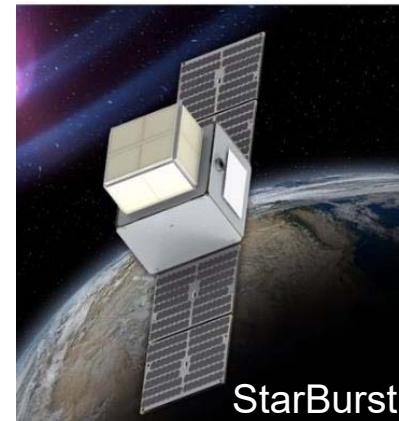


**Aspera:** IGM Inflow/outflow from galaxies via O VI 10<sup>5</sup>K emission line imaging (PI Carlos Vargas, U. Arizona)  
**APPROVED for DEVELOPMENT**

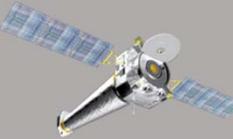
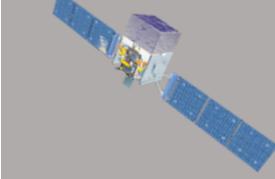
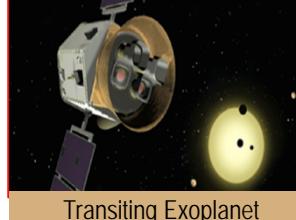
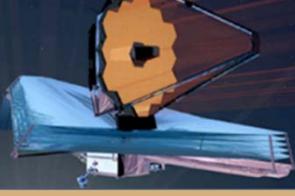


- First four selections made January 2020
- Must pass NASA cost assessment of <\$20M (rolling reviews, not a competition)
- All four have passed
- Pioneers Cycle 2 (ROSES-21) proposals due March 17, 2022

# Astrophysics Pioneers – Cycle 1 Selections



# Astrophysics Missions in Operations

<b>Hubble</b> NASA Strategic Mission 	<b>Chandra</b> NASA Strategic Mission 	<b>XMM-Newton</b> <sup>12/99</sup> ESA-led Mission 	<b>Gehrels Swift</b> <sup>11/04</sup> NASA MIDEX Mission 	<b>Fermi</b> NASA Strategic Mission 	<b>NuSTAR</b> NASA SMEX Mission 
Hubble Space Telescope	Chandra X-ray Observatory	X-ray Multi Mirror - Newton	Neil Gehrels Swift Gamma-ray Burst Explorer	Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope	Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array
<b>SOFIA</b> NASA Strategic Mission 	<b>ISS-NICER</b> NASA Explorers Miss. of Opty 	<b>TESS</b> NASA MIDEX Mission 	<b>IXPE</b> NASA SMEX Mission 	<b>Webb</b> NASA Strategic Mission 	<b>Balloon Program</b> Four Campaigns per Year 
Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy	Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer	Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite	Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer	James Webb Space Telescope	Managed by the Astrophysics Division

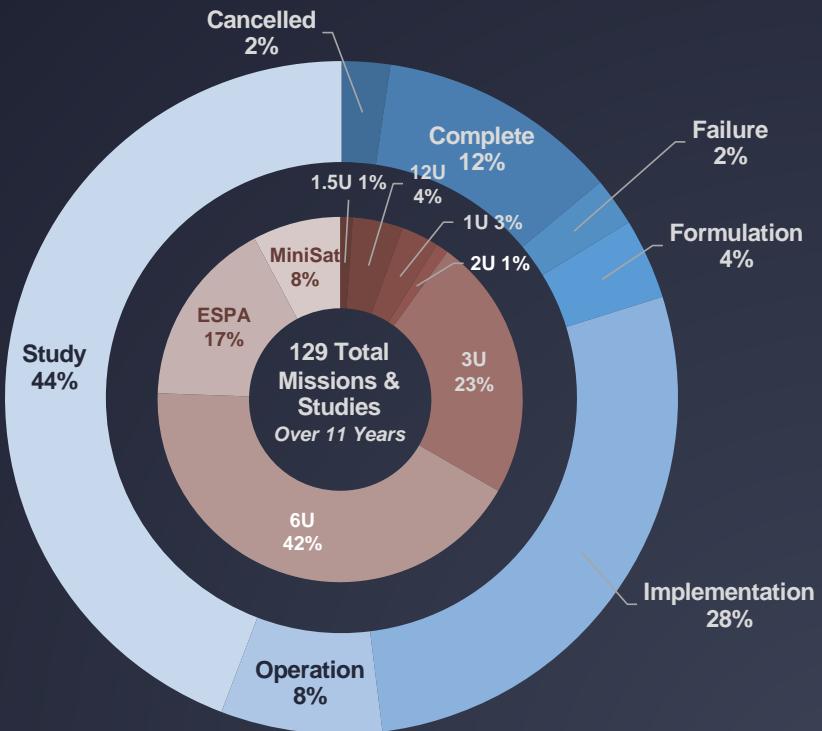
Next Senior Review of Operating Missions is in 2022

# NASA's Small Satellite Missions at a Glance

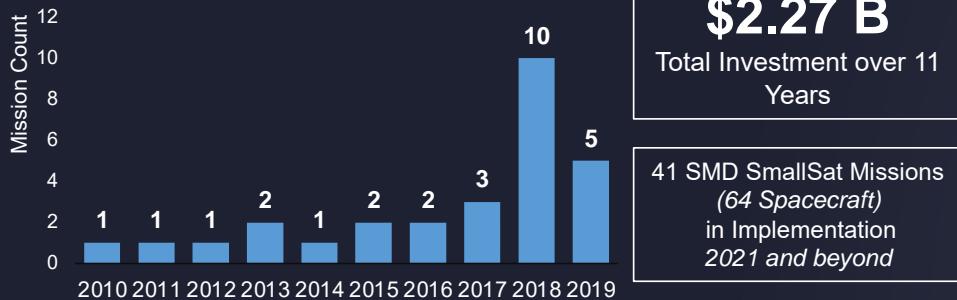
## SmallSat/CubeSat Missions & Investment by SMD Division



## Mission Phase and Satellite Size



## Mission Launch Timelines



# SOFIA



Instrument Roadmap - HAWC+ upgrade studies underway

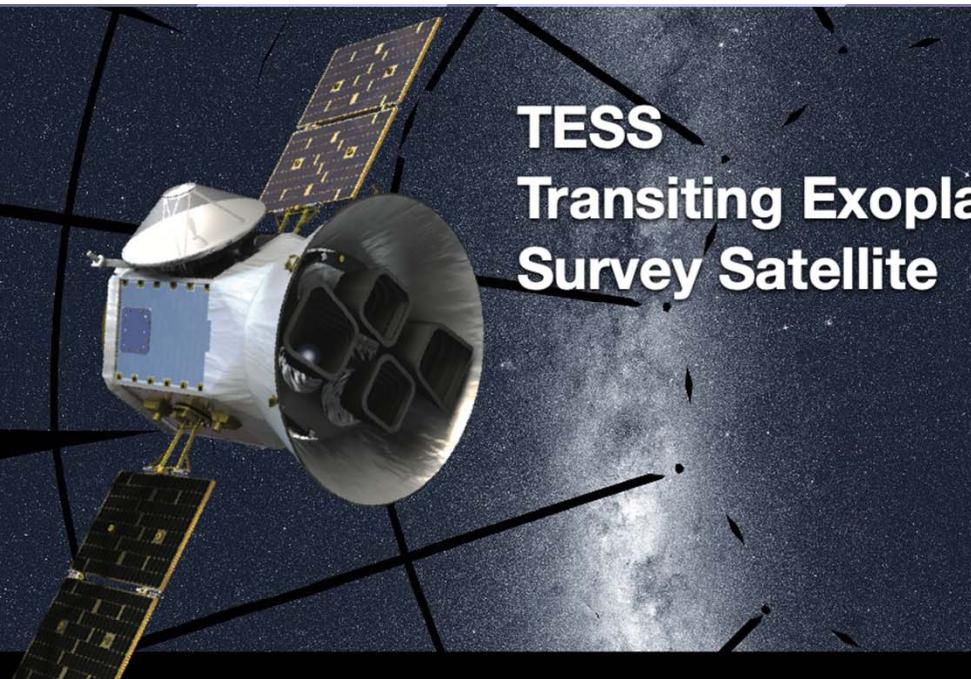
Project is preparing for Senior Review

Implemented 5th contingency flight to increase research flights (flown if one regular flight is cancelled)

Planning for southern deployment to Chile in March - will be third deployment to a new country in less than 18 months

[SOFIA's AAS sessions rescheduled](#)

# TESS Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite

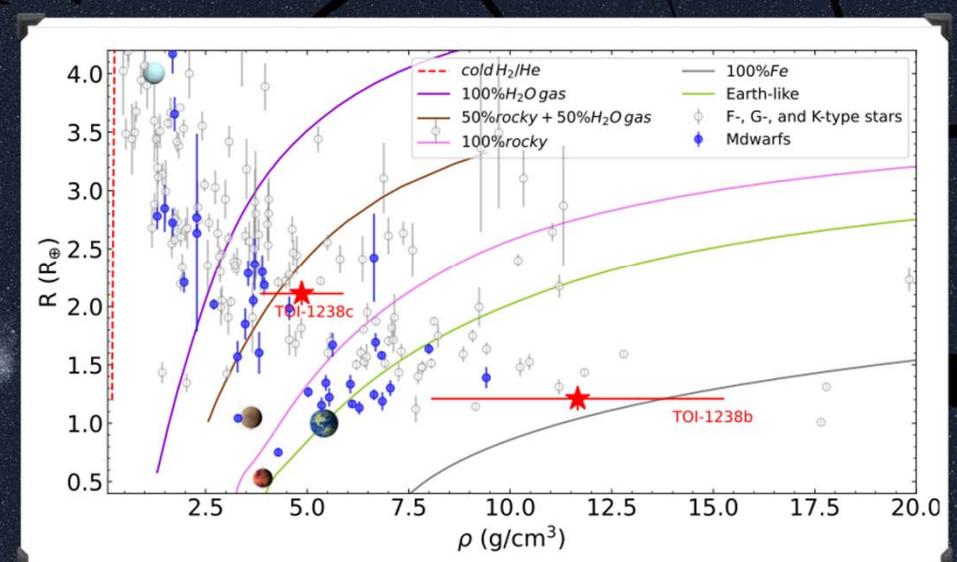


**Where is TESS Pointing now?: Observation Sector 45**  
**Orbit 1: November 6th 2021 - November 18th 2021**  
**Orbit 2: November 19th 2021 - December 2nd 2021**

**Planet Count:** **172 confirmed planets**  
**4,704 candidate planets**

**Publication Count: 792 submitted, 660 peer-reviewed**  
**(43% exoplanets, 57% astrophysics)**

**Latest update: December 1st 2021**



• Image Credit: González-Álvarez et. al., (2021).

- Astronomers confirm the planetary nature of TOI-1238 b and c, with both planets being super-Earths orbiting an M dwarf. González-Álvarez et. al., (2021).
  - The inner planet b is one of the densest planets known to date, likely made of iron
  - The composition of planet c is more compatible to Earth and Venus
- A new open-source tool has been developed called TESSreduce. This is a user-friendly Python package which is built to lower the barrier to entry for transient science with TESS. Ridden-Harper et. al., (2021).
- An ultrahot gas giant, TOI-2109b, is discovered with a 16 hr orbit! Wong et. al., (2021)

# Astrophysics 2022 Senior Review

NASA Astrophysics Advisory Committee

Senior Review Subcommittee

Rest-of-Missions Panel

Chandra Panel

Hubble Panel

SOFIA Panel

Triennial peer-review mandated by Congress of operating missions (last one was 2019) to assist NASA in planning its strategy for extended missions

SMD Missions to be reviewed by Astrophysics Division

Hubble, Chandra, SOFIA (separate panels)

Fermi, New Horizons, NICER, NuSTAR, Swift, TESS, XMM-Newton (one panel)

NASA will use the review information to:

Prioritize the operating missions and projects;

Define an implementation approach to achieve astrophysics strategic objectives;

Provide programmatic direction to the missions and projects concerned for FY23, FY24 and FY25; and issue initial funding guidelines for FY26 and FY27 (to be revisited in the 2025 Senior Review)

Notional Schedule

Call for proposals: 1-Oct-2021

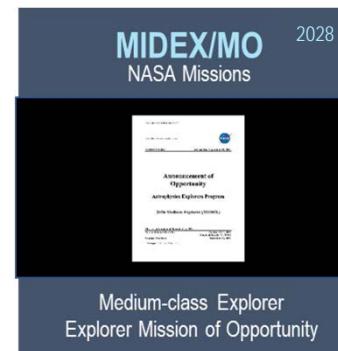
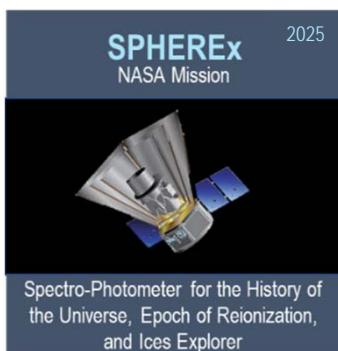
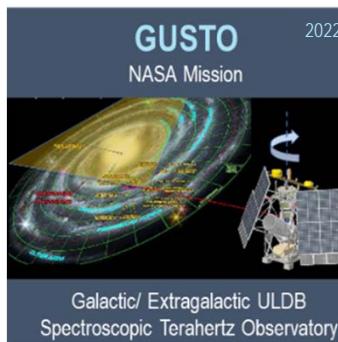
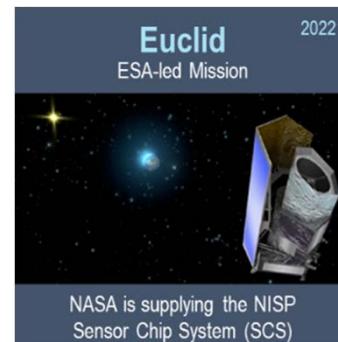
Proposal due date: 1-Feb-2022

Site visits for large missions: March 2022

Panel reviews merged and delivered to APAC: April 2022

Special meeting of the APAC for recommendations to NASA: May 2022

# Astrophysics Missions in Development



Launch dates are current project working dates through XRISM; Agency Baseline Commitment launch date could be later

Does not include Pioneers or CubeSats

# Euclid

ESA and NASA partnership

- Euclid will study the nature of Dark Energy, Dark Matter and General Theory of Relativity

NASA delivered Sensor Chip System includes 16 Flight and 4 Spare Sensor Chip Systems for the Near Infrared Spectrometer Photometer instrument

Euclid NASA Science Center at IPAC and over 70 US Science Team members

STATUS:

- Payloads are with Thales-Alenia in Italy for spacecraft integration
- IPAC science ground segment software deliveries on track
- Launch in late 2022

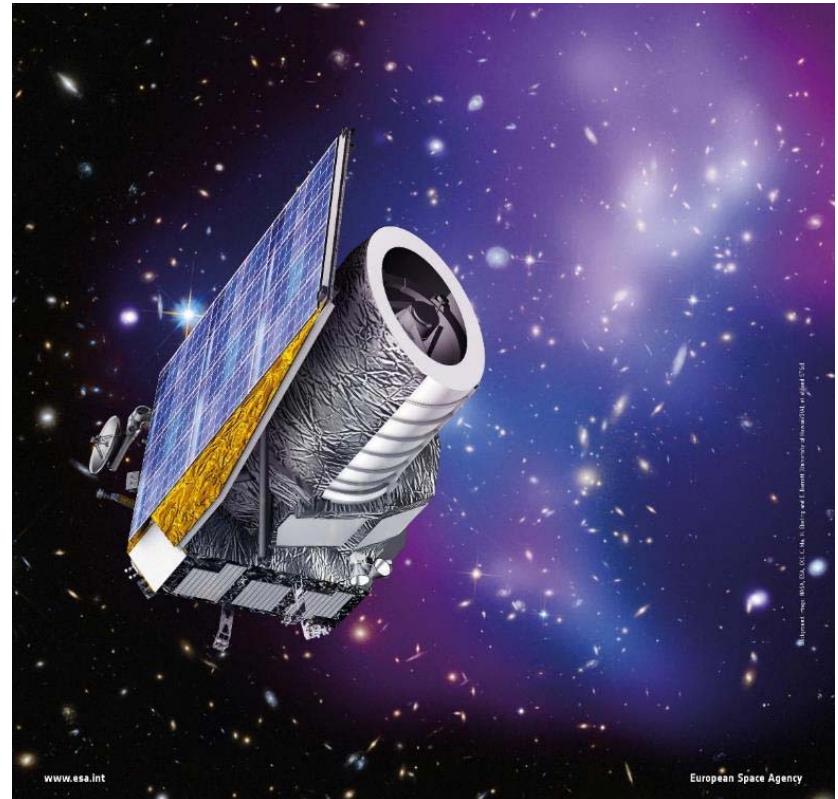
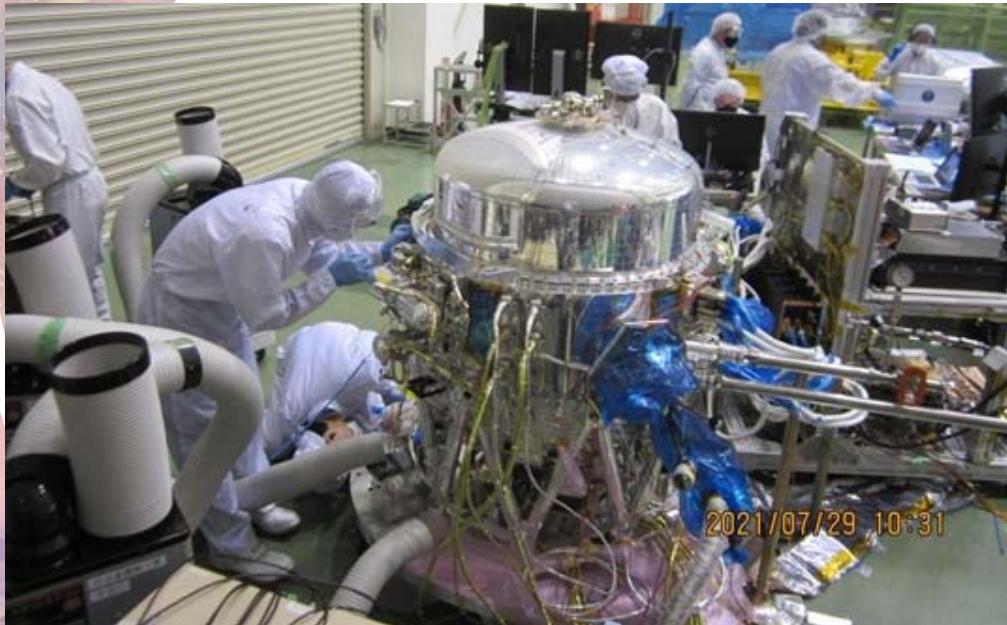


Illustration: Space Telescope Science Institute, ESA, C. Carreau, Processor: J. Gammie, Source: C. Carreau, Processor: J. Gammie

European Space Agency

# XRISM

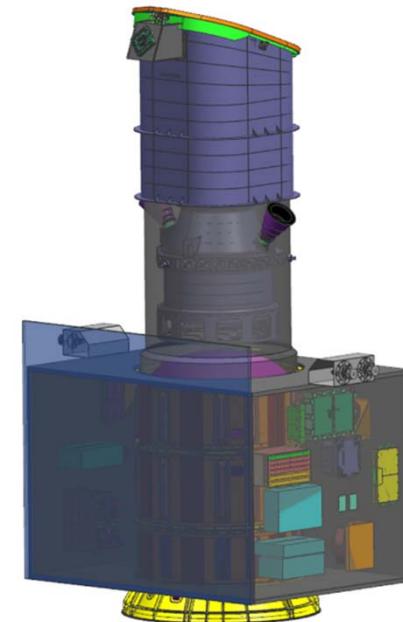
## X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission



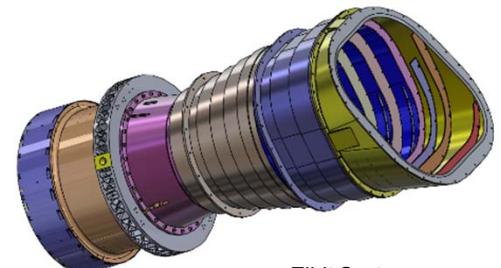
- After 1.5 years of tough travel to Japan during pandemic, the NASA and JAXA teams have verified that a helium leak in the JAXA dewar has been fixed
- Integration and Test continues with in-person and remote NASA support, launch early 2023
  - In-person NASA support suspended due to Japan's restriction of all travel to Japan
- X-ray Mirror Assemblies complete and under calibration at GSFC – delivery to Japan in March 2022
- XRISM Guest Scientist program for broader US participation in Performance Verification phase solicited through ROSES-22
- PV phase targets:  
[https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/xrism/timeline\\_s/pvtargets.html](https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/xrism/timeline_s/pvtargets.html)

# ULTRASAT

- ULTRASAT: a wide-field (>200 sq deg) UV survey & transient detection mission by the Israel Space Agency & Weizmann Institute of Science
  - NASA providing commercial launch ~late 2024/early 2025 for a 3-yr prime mission in geosynchronous orbit
  - Data public at IPAC following 12-mo exclusive data use period
- Science: Main focus on gravitational wave sources, supernovae, variable and flare stars, and time domain astronomy. Public alerts within 20-min of trigger.
- Status
  - Israel Space Agency ULTRASAT mission CDR in early 2022
  - NASA-ISA MOU NASA concurrence process
  - US Participating Scientist program



ULTRASAT Concept  
Source: Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)



Elbit Systems

# SPHEREx

Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Re-ionization, and Ices Explorer Mission

NASA's first all-sky near-infrared (0.75microns – 5 microns) spectral survey. Science goals include:

- Probe the origin of the Universe by improving constraints on inflationary non-Gaussianity through a large- volume galaxy redshift survey.
- Investigate the origin of water and biogenic molecules from interstellar ices in the early phases of planetary system formation.
- Chart the origin and history of galaxy formation, from light produced by the first galaxies that ended the cosmic dark ages to the present day.
- Provide a rich public spectral archive for diverse investigations ranging from X-ray astronomy to exoplanet characterization.

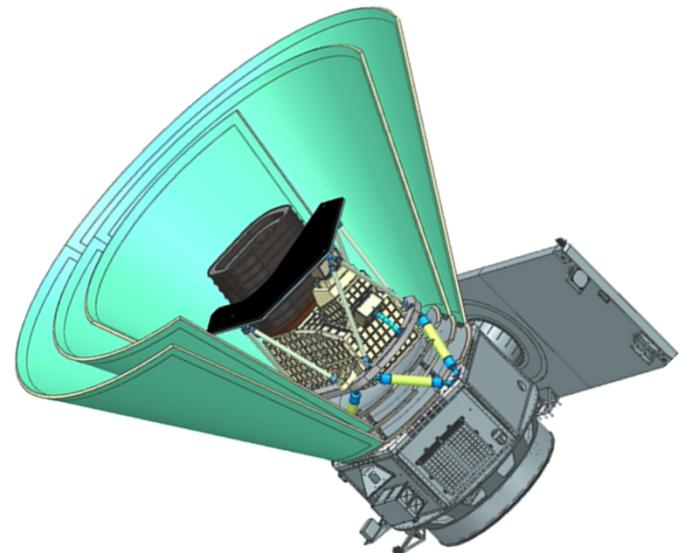
Critical Design Review (CDR) planned for January 18-21, 2022

Systems Integration Review (SIR) planned for June 2023

Current Agency launch readiness date is April 2025

## Status

- Prototype telescope mirror in cryogenic testing. Fabrication of flight telescope mirror to start late this CY.
- Development of flight detectors is ongoing at Teledyne.
- V-Grooves payload thermal subsystem is in detailed design at JPL.
- Photon shield payload thermal subsystem is in vendor procurement process.



# Compton Spectrometer and Imager (COSI)

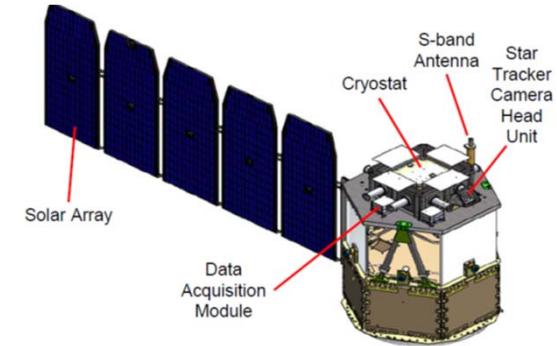
PI: John Tomsick, University of California, Berkeley

COSI is Compton imaging spectrometer with cryogenic Ge detectors for 0.1-5 MeV gamma-rays. It has an energy resolution of 0.4% FWHM @ 1.8 MeV, an angular resolution of 2.0° FWHM @ 1.8 MeV and would cover 100% of the sky every day; COSI builds on heritage from successful balloon campaigns and operates at a Near-equatorial orbit at 550km altitude

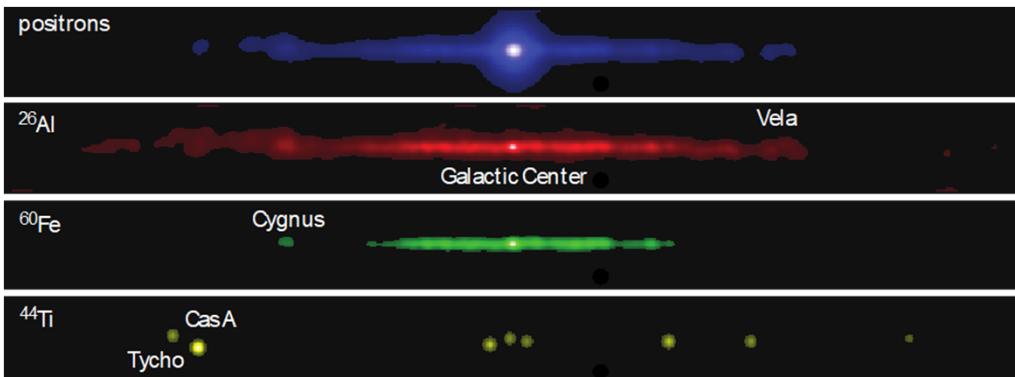
COSI will provide an understanding of the positron excess; map  $^{26}\text{Al}$  (half-life 60yr) to study element formation; make the first map of  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  (half-life 2.6Myr, only source is core-collapsed SN) to trace past core collapse supernovae; and discover new young supernovae in  $^{44}\text{Ti}$  (half-life 0.7Myr).

In addition, COSI will gain insight into extreme environments with polarization, such as accreting black holes (AGN and Galactic) and  $\gamma$ -ray bursts (GRBs). COSI can also localize the  $\gamma$ -ray counterparts to GW events (short GRBs) and detect high-energy neutrino counterparts.

Launch Readiness Date: December 2025



Simulated Radioactive Milky Way



# ARIEL

Atmospheric Remote-sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large survey

ESA and NASA partnership

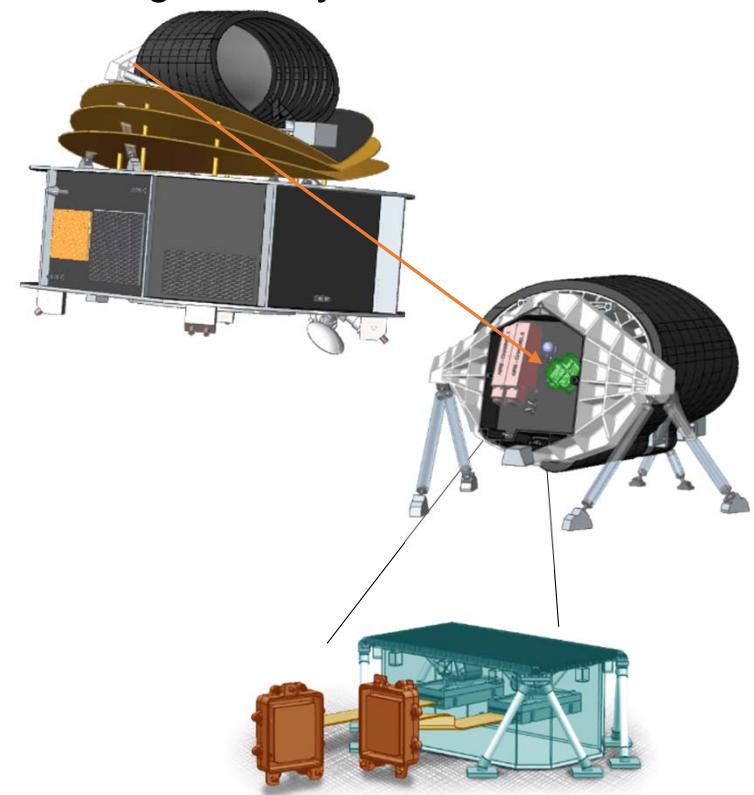
- Observe ~1000 planets
- Survey and characterize exoplanet atmospheres

NASA contribution (CASE) includes detectors and cold front-end electronics, packaging, thermal management, and cryoflex cables for ARIEL Fine Guidance System

Provides US participation in science team, mission survey design, and scientific discoveries

STATUS:

- MOU draft is under review
- Spring 2022 – NASA CASE PDR
- Summer 2022 – NASA CASE KDP-C
- Fall 2023 – NASA CASE CDR
- Hardware deliveries late 2024 to 2025
- Launch ~2029



CASE  
Contribution to ARIEL Spectroscopy of Exoplanets

# ATHENA

Advanced Telescope for High Energy Astrophysics

ESA and NASA partnership

ATHENA will map hot gas structures and determining their physical properties, search for supermassive black holes in the Hot and Energetic Universe

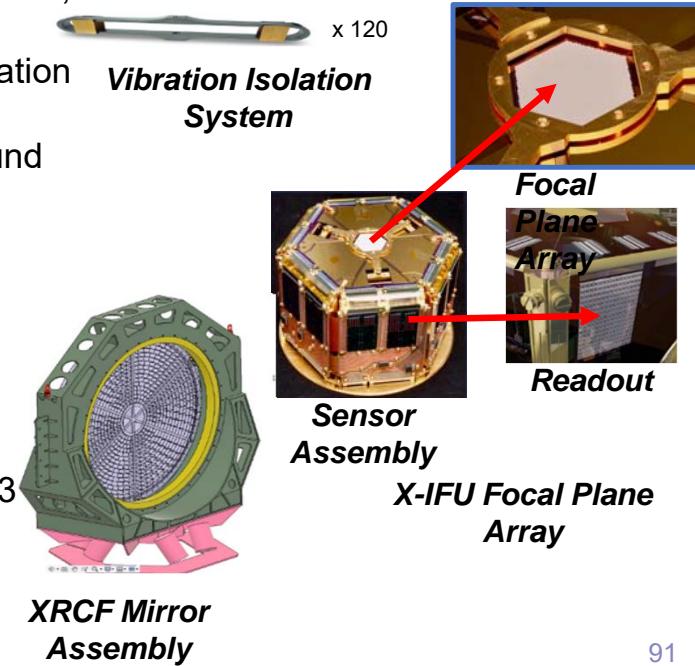


NASA contributions:

- X-IFU Focal Plane Array (GSFC, NIST-Boulder, LLNL, Stanford, UMBC, UC-Boulder)
- Use of NASA Testing Facilities MSFC XRCF facility for mirror calibration
- Vibration Isolation System
- WFI VERITAS ASIC Design for detector readout and WFI Background Analysis Model
- US Athena Science Center
- Science Grant Program for US Co-Is and Guest Observers

STATUS:

- NASA transitioned from ATHENA study phase to ATHENA project on September 30, 2021. GSFC is the implementing Center
- Mission adoption review currently scheduled for Nov 2022 - Feb 2023
- Mirror unlikely to meet 5" resolution requirement, ESA conducting independent review of science case at 10" resolution
- Launch ~ 2034



# LISA

Laser Interferometer Space Antenna

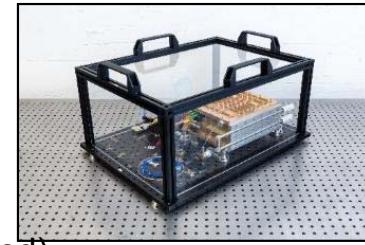


## ESA and NASA partnership

- LISA will observe the universe in the millihertz gravitational wave band, detecting tens of thousands of sources ranging from white dwarf binaries in the Milky Way to massive black hole mergers at high redshift.

## NASA contributions

- Interferometric Telescopes (GSFC, L3 Harris)
- Laser Systems (GSFC)
- Charge Management System (U. Florida, Fibertek)
- TBD contributions to data analysis & science (concept study initiated)
- Contributions to European-led mission and instrument systems engineering



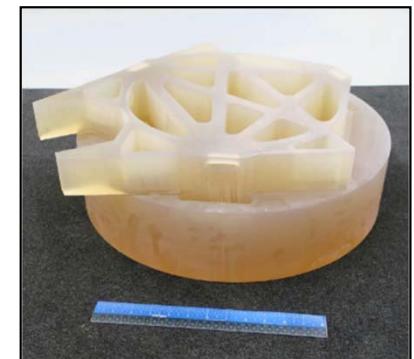
TRL4 laser  
brassboard



TRL5 Charge  
Management Unit

## STATUS

- NASA in pre-Phase A Study managed by Physics of the Cosmos Program Office at GSFC. Systems engineering & science support from JPL & MSFC.
- ESA completed Mission Formulation Review on Dec 3, 2021 and transitions to ESA's phase B1.



Primary mirror blank  
for EDU telescope

## All dates approximate

- September 2023 – NASA KDP A
- February 2024 – ESA Mission Adoption
- 2026 NASA KDP C
- 2035 – ESA Launch



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

# ASTROPHYSICS FLEET

## PRE-FORMULATION

MIDEX/MO 2028

PROBE ~2030

ATHENA EARLY 2030s

LISA MID 2030s

## VERY SMALL MISSIONS

## TRADITIONAL MISSIONS

### KEY

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER LED

ISS INSTRUMENT

SMALLSAT

CUBESAT

BALLOON

- FORMULATION
- IMPLEMENTATION
- OPERATING
- EXTENDED

2025

