

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



# INVESTMENTS IN OUR FUTURE: EXPLORING SPACE THROUGH INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY



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**NASA Deputy Chief Technologist**

**Space Shuttle Symposium**

**June 8, 2011**

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

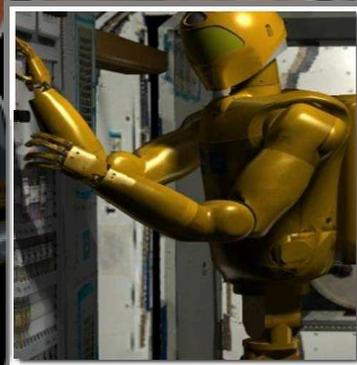
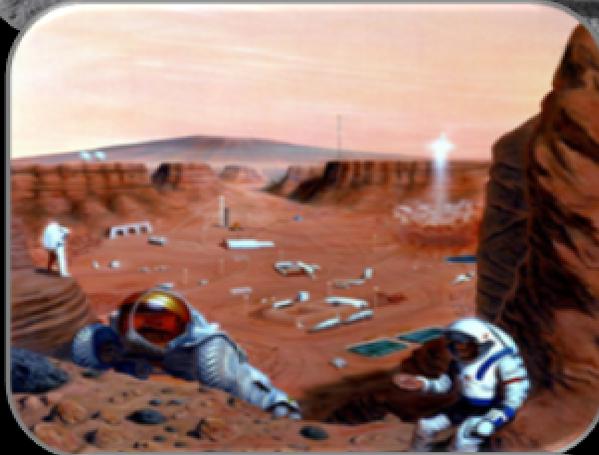
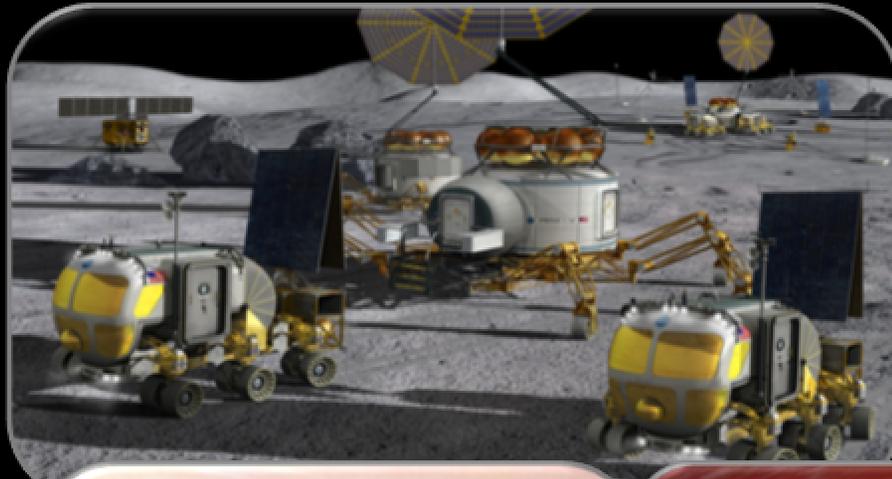
# Engle & Truly and the Shuttle Inspire a High School Student



# NASA's Grand Achievement Defined Rocket Science



# What is the Equivalent of Our Generation's "Space Race"?



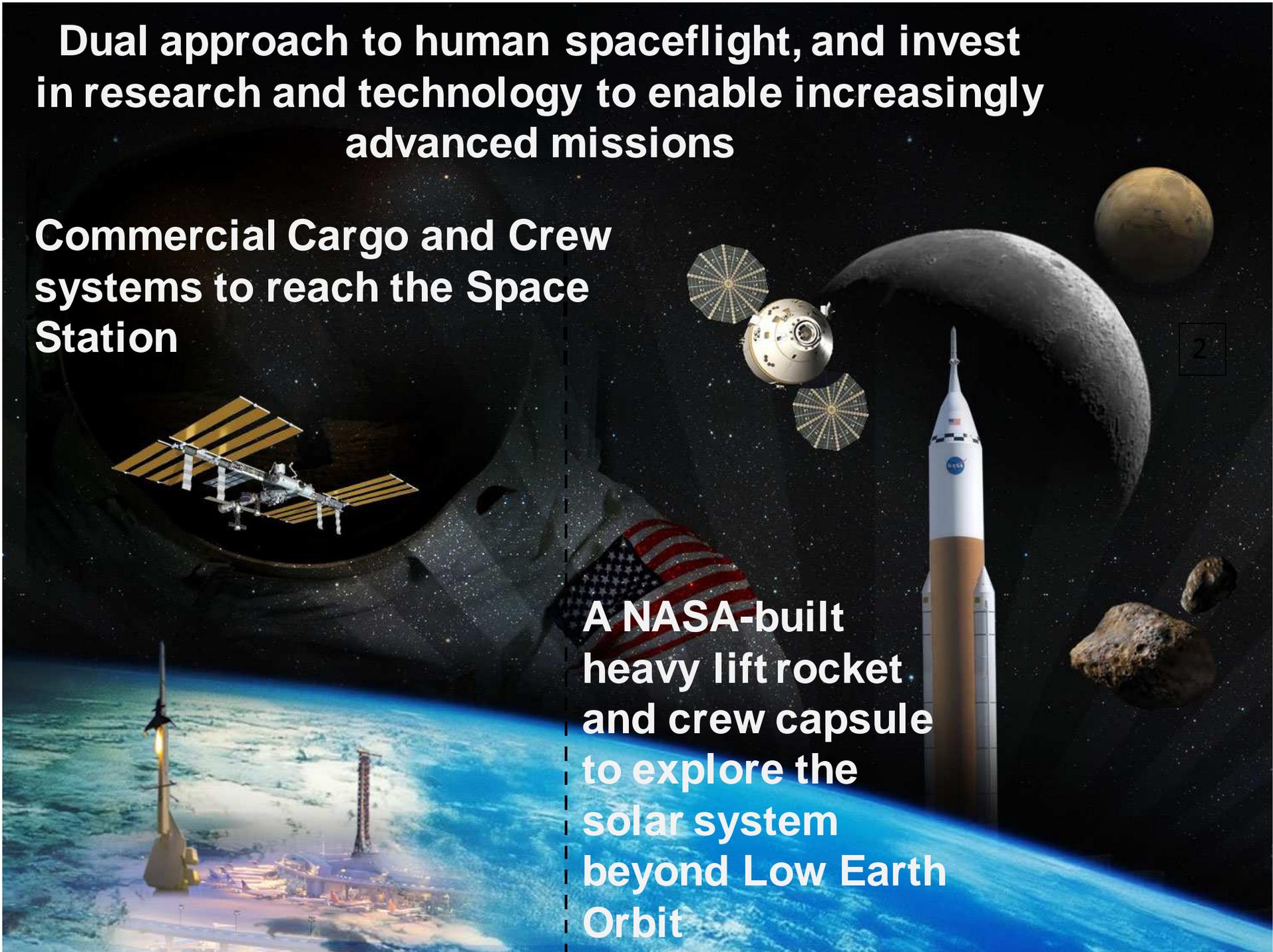
# A Great Start...



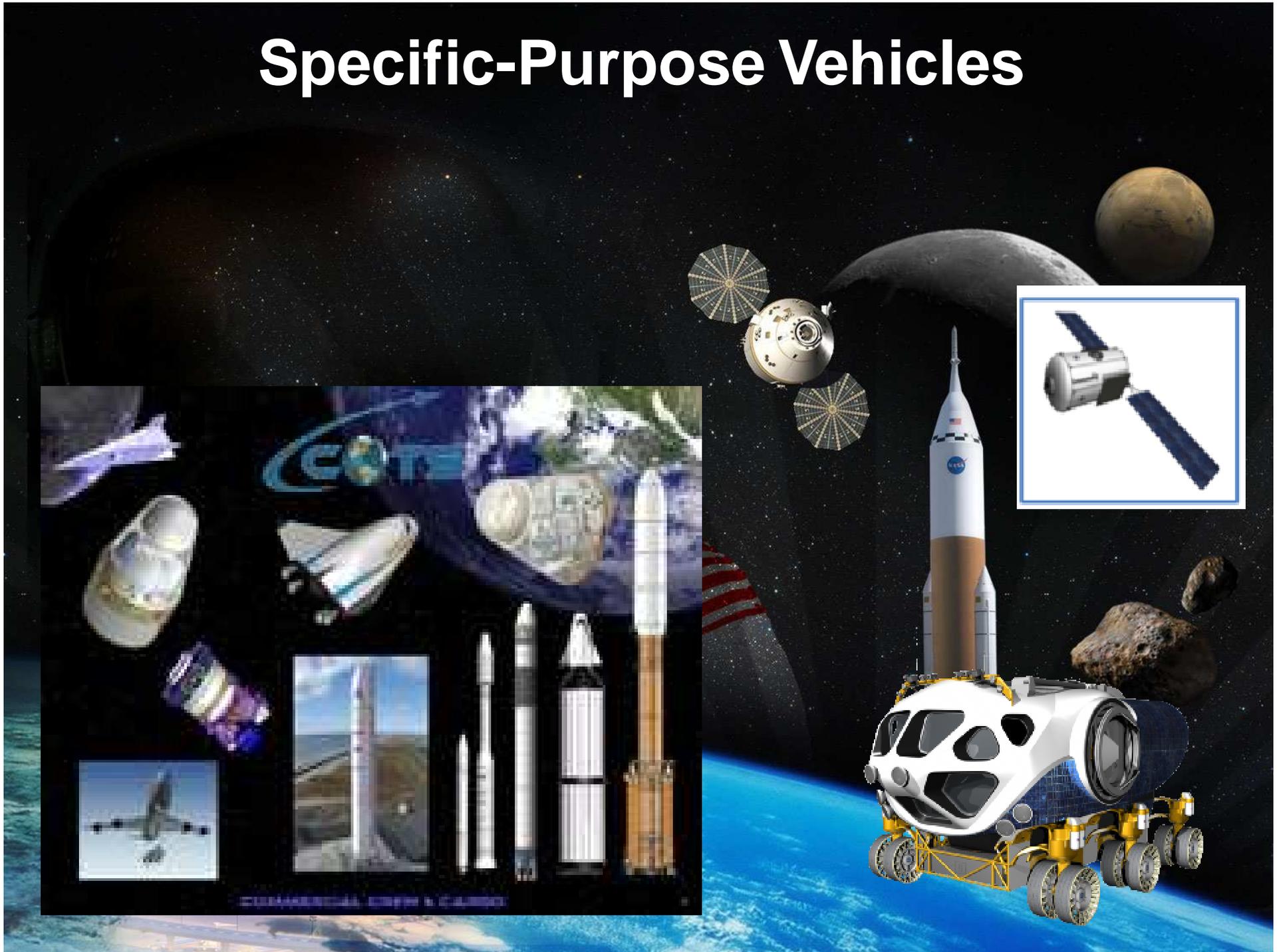
**Dual approach to human spaceflight, and invest in research and technology to enable increasingly advanced missions**

**Commercial Cargo and Crew systems to reach the Space Station**

**A NASA-built heavy lift rocket and crew capsule to explore the solar system beyond Low Earth Orbit**



# Specific-Purpose Vehicles



# Designed, Built and Tested Today



# Our Space Exploration Future

## 9 Game-Changing Civil Space Possibilities Within Our Grasp:

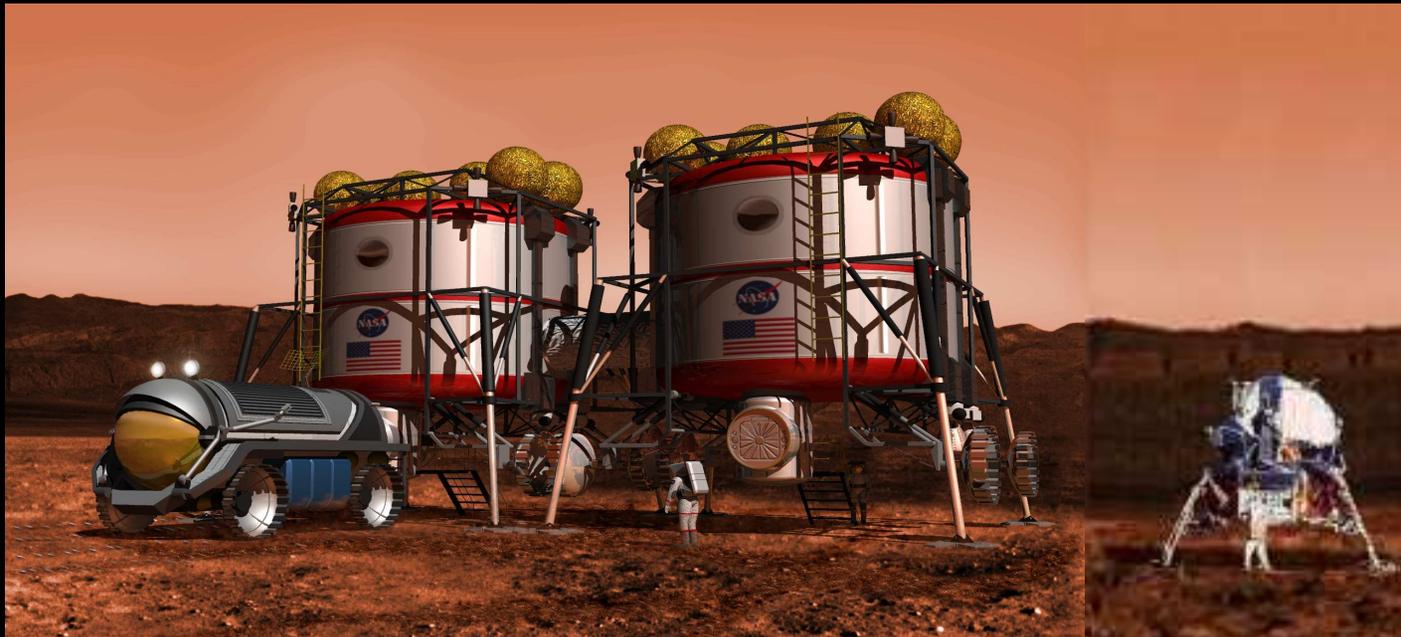
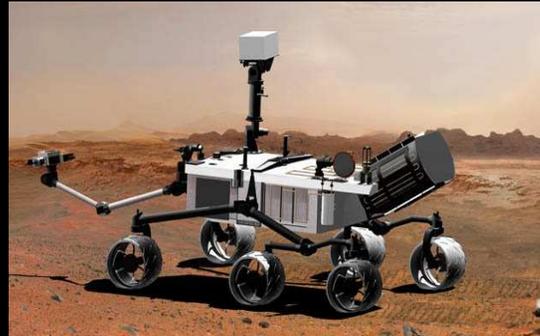
- Quantify Causes, Trends and Effects of Long-Term Earth Climate Change
- Accurately Forecast the Emergence of Major Storms and Natural Disasters
- Develop and Utilize Efficient Space-Based Energy Sources
- Prepare an Asteroid Defense
- Identify Life Elsewhere in our Solar System
- Identify Earth-like Worlds Around Other Stars
- Initiate Interstellar Robotic Exploration
- Achieve Reliable Commercial Low-Earth Orbit Transportation
- Achieve Permanent Human Presence Beyond the Cradle of the Earth





# Humans Mars Exploration

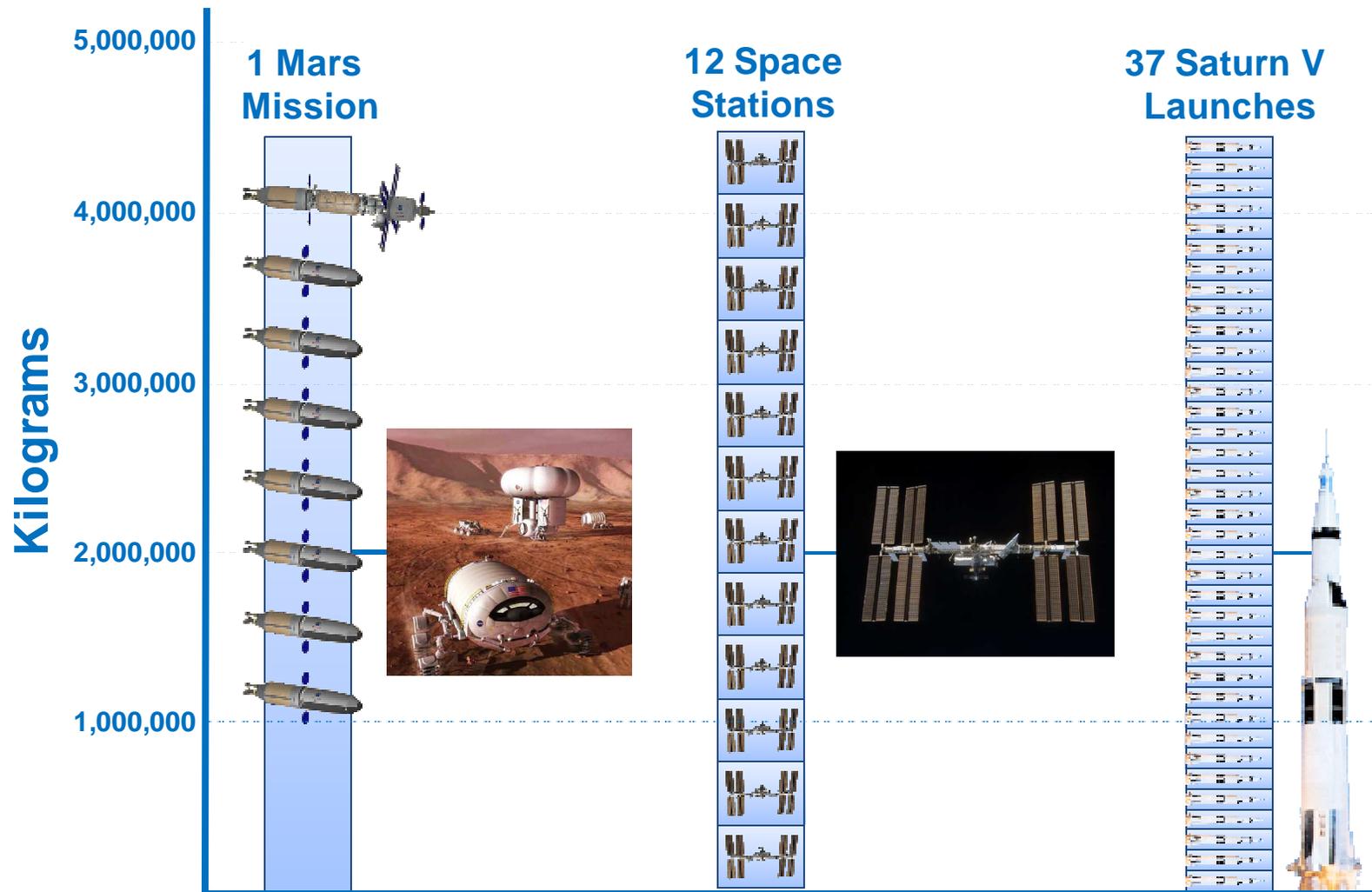
Mars Science Laboratory  
1 Metric Ton



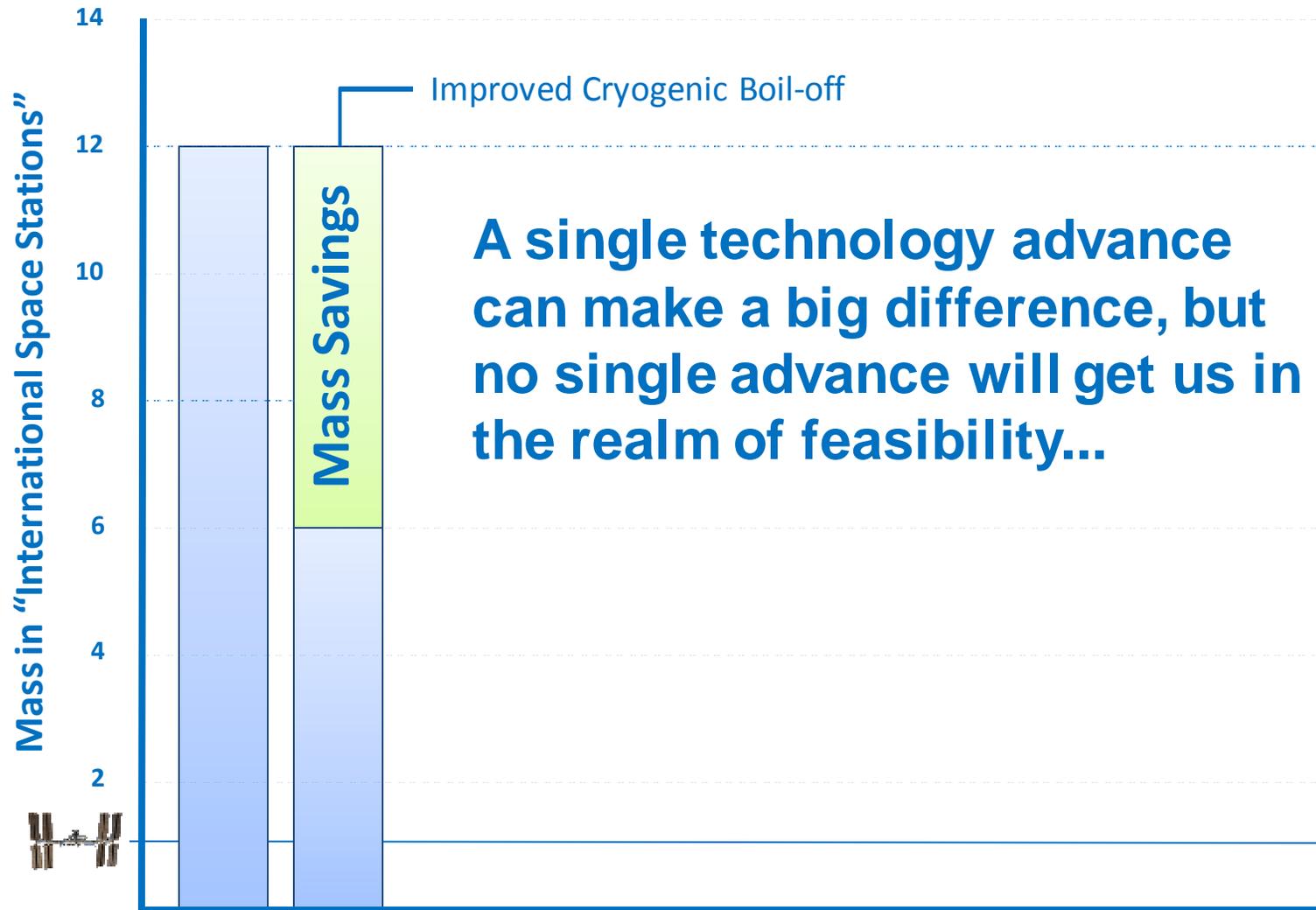
Human Mars  
Mission  
40-100 Metric  
Ton  
Per landing

**How Do We Land Something This Big?**

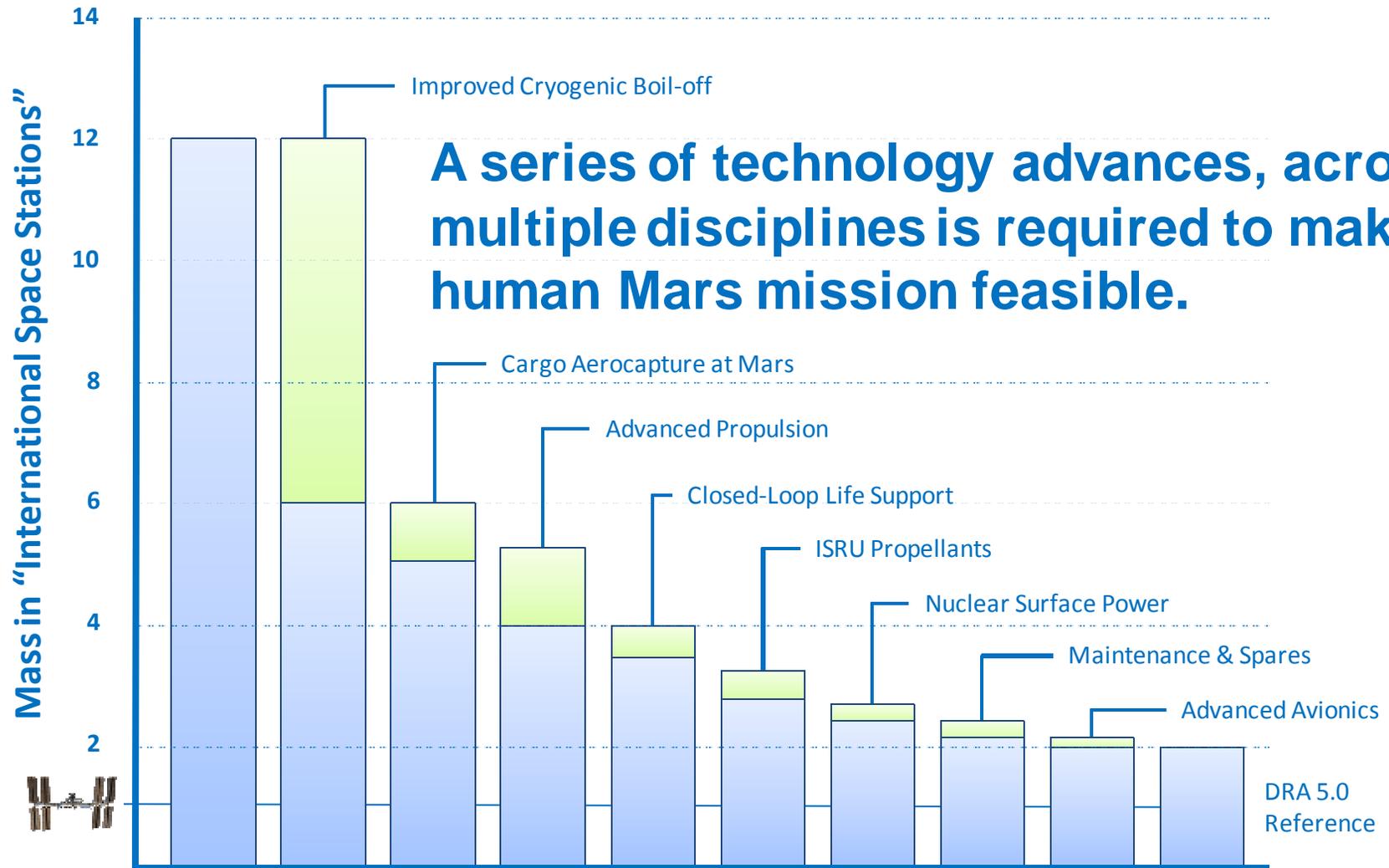
# Human Mars Exploration Low Earth Orbit Departure Mass Requirement



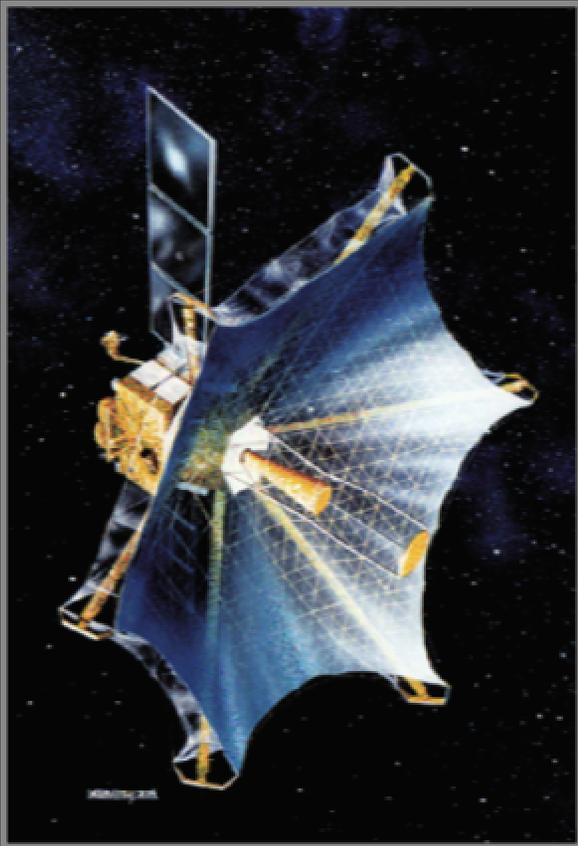
# The Impact of Technology Advancement



# The Impact of Technology Advancement



# Technology-Enabled Approaches to Science



# Space Technology: Investments in Our Future



- **Through NASA, America Continues to Dream Big**

- NASA's future aeronautics, science and exploration missions are grand in scope and bold in stature

- **Enabling Our Future in Space**

- Investing in high payoff, disruptive technology that industry cannot tackle today, *Space Technology* matures the technology required for NASA's future missions in science and exploration while proving the capabilities and lowering the cost of other government agencies and commercial space activities.

- **NASA at the Cutting Edge**

- Pushing the boundaries of aerospace and taking informed-risk, *Space Technology* allows NASA and our Nation to remain at the cutting-edge.

- **Technological leadership is the “Space Race” of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- **NASA makes a difference in our lives everyday**

- Knowledge provided by weather and navigational spacecraft
- Efficiency improvements in both ground and air transportation
- Solar- and wind-generated energy
- Cameras found in many of today's cell phones
- Improved biomedical applications including advanced medical imaging
- More nutritious infant formula
- Protective gear that keeps our military, firefighters and police safe



# Broad Technology Maturation Coverage



- Space Technology Research Grants



- NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC)



- Center Innovation Fund



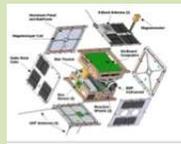
- Centennial Challenges Prize



- Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR)



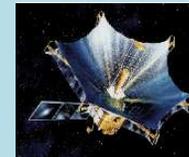
- Game Changing Development



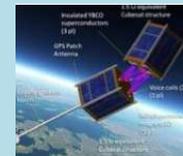
- Franklin Small Satellite Subsystem Technology



- Flight Opportunities



- Technology Demonstration Missions



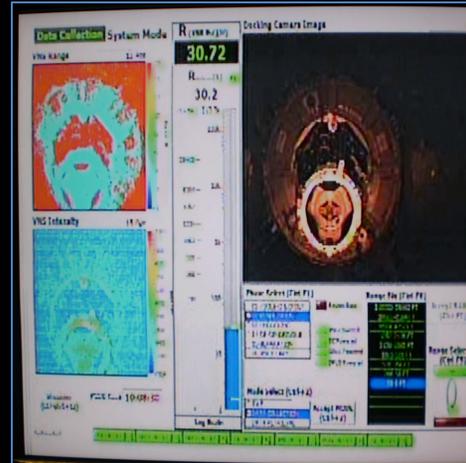
- Edison Small Satellite Demonstration Missions



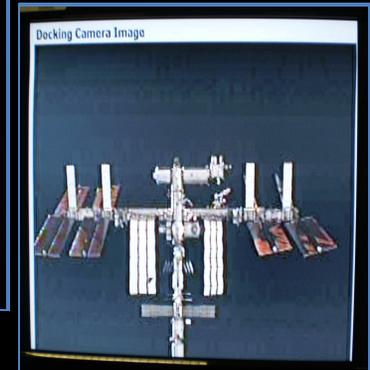
# Hardware...Solve a Problem...Fast



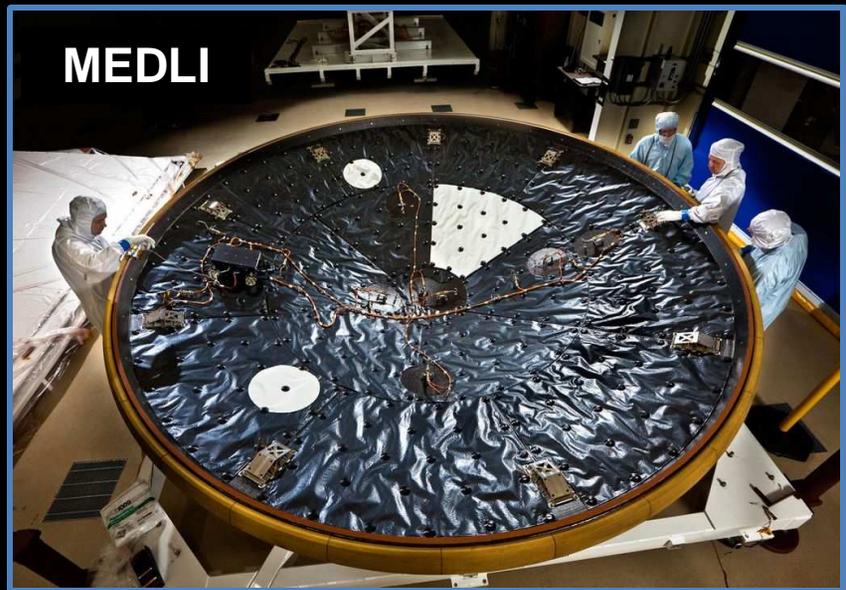
Shuttle Infrared Camera



STORMM



ALHAT



MEDLI

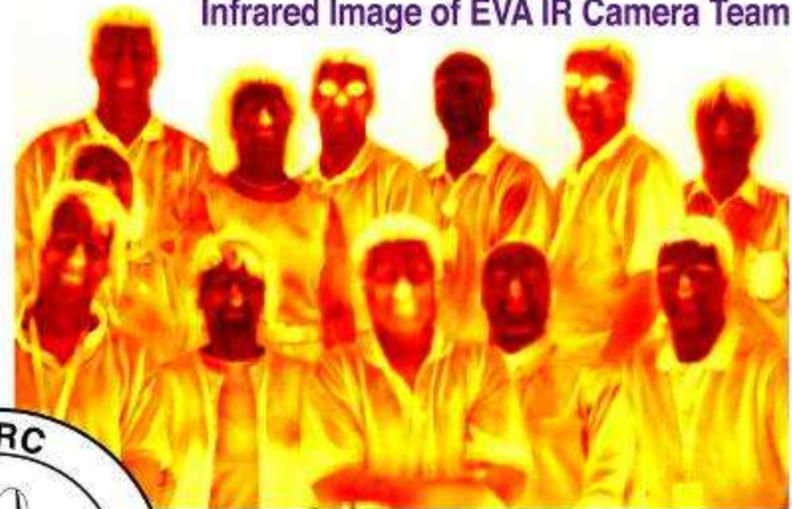
# Team Support at Mission Control



STS-121 EVA-3 Support at Mission Control, July 12, 2006

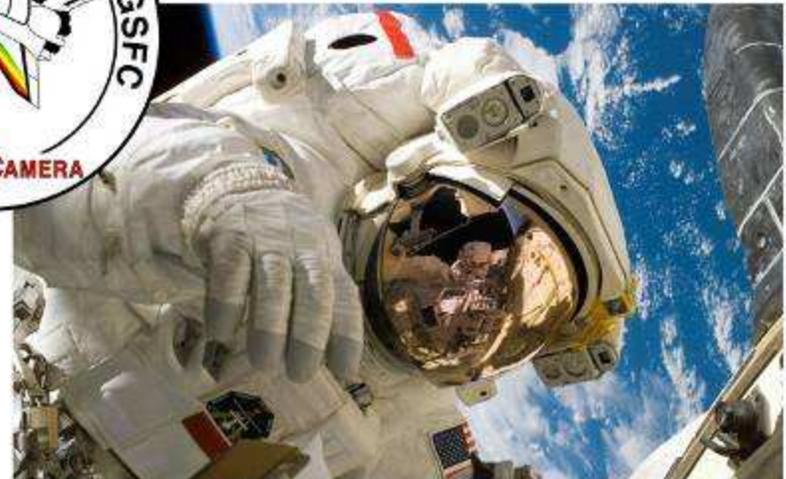


Infrared Image of EVA IR Camera Team



EVA IR Camera Team

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)



Reflection of EVA IR Camera in Piers Sellers' Visor

# Risk Posture: Necessary to Accomplish Worthy Goals



- **Risk Posture different for technology development**
- **Failure is an Option – in technology-focused development programs**
  - “Failing Forward” because a technology did not pan out results in increased knowledge and learning
  - How “failure” is treated is key to the success of the Program

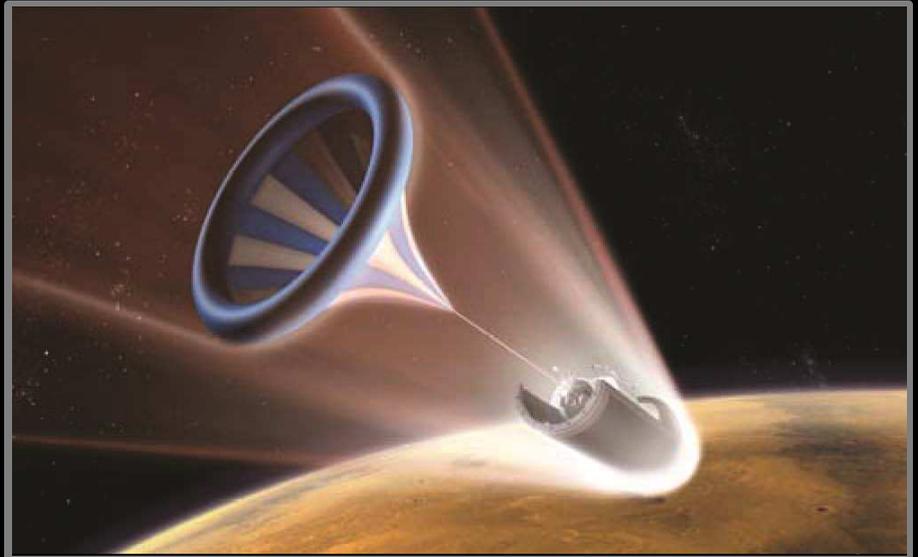
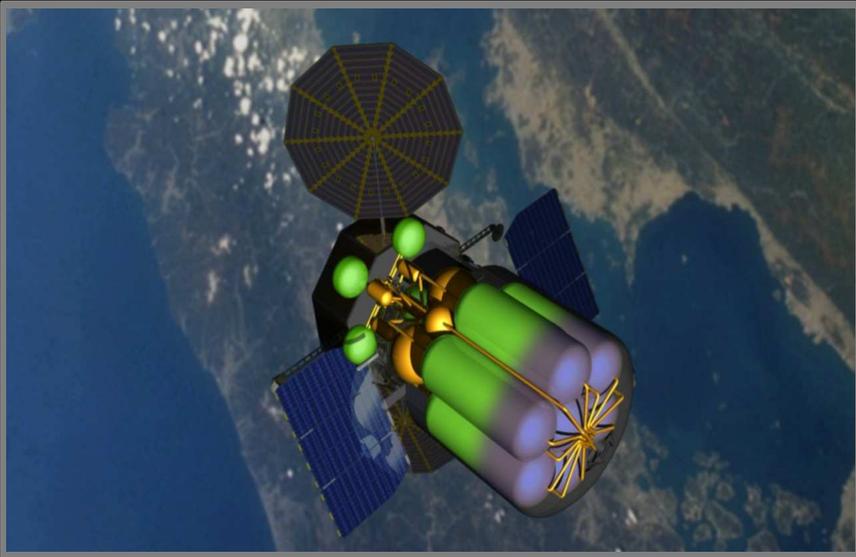
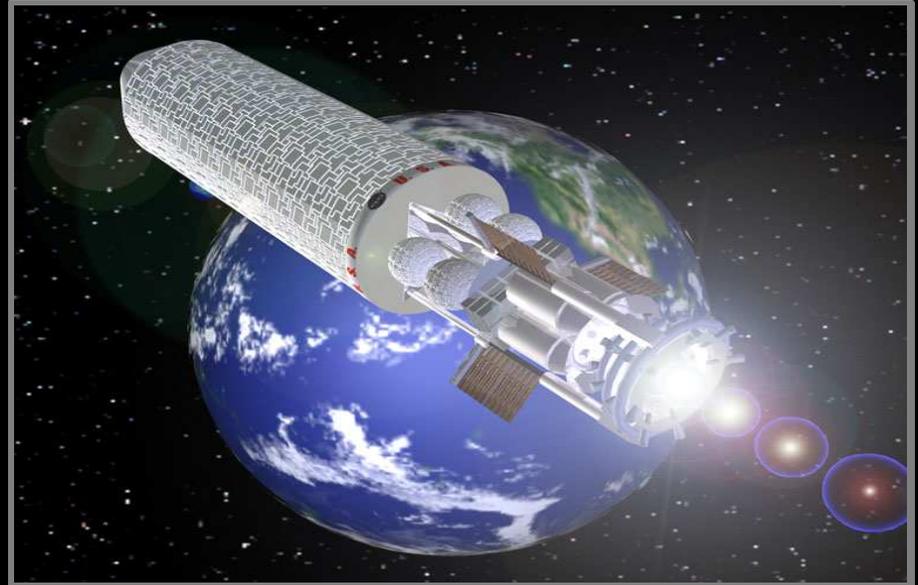
- **Programs focused on technology development afford us the opportunity to take technical risk. Accomplishing something great demands that we do.**

**“Risk intolerance is a guarantee of failure to accomplish anything of significance.” – Sandia National Laboratories, *Risk, Challenge and Reward in LDRD***

- **Informed Risk-Taking**
  - **Practice of understanding the risk one is taking in implementing a project and managing project resources to best mitigate the integrated risk posture.**

**“We cannot shrink from risk.... When you take chances and do stuff that nobody else has ever done...We have to be willing to accept risk. We have to be willing to do daring things.” - NASA Administrator Charles Bolden**

# Technology-Enabled Approaches to Exploration

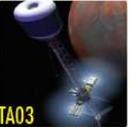


# Technical Area Breakdown Structure



**TA01**  • **LAUNCH PROPULSION SYSTEMS**

**TA02**  • **IN-SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES**

**TA03**  • **SPACE POWER & ENERGY STORAGE**

**TA04**  • **ROBOTICS, TELE-ROBOTICS & AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS**

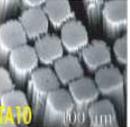
**TA05**  • **COMMUNICATION & NAVIGATION**

**TA06**  • **HUMAN HEALTH, LIFE SUPPORT & HABITATION SYSTEMS**

**TA07**  • **HUMAN EXPLORATION DESTINATION SYSTEMS**

**TA08**  • **SCIENCE INSTRUMENTS, OBSERVATORIES & SENSOR SYSTEMS**

**TA09**  • **ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING SYSTEMS**

**TA10**  • **NANOTECHNOLOGY**

**TA11**  • **MODELING, SIMULATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & PROCESSING**

**TA12**  • **MATERIALS, STRUCTURES, MECHANICAL SYSTEMS & MANUFACTURING**

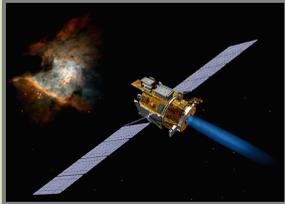
**TA13**  • **GROUND & LAUNCH SYSTEMS PROCESSING**

**TA14**  • **THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

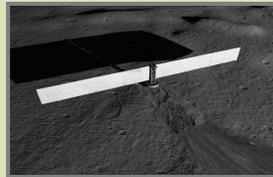
# FY12 Space Technology Project Areas



## Game Changing Technology



**In-Space Propulsion**



**Space Power Generation**



**Nuclear Systems**



**Lightweight Materials and Structures**



**In-Situ Resource Utilization**



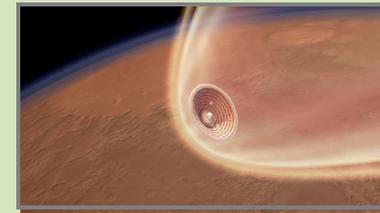
**Autonomous Systems**



**Human-Robotic Systems**



**Next Generation Life Support**



**Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator**

## Crosscutting Capabilities



**Supersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator**



**Cryogenic Propellant Storage & Transfer**



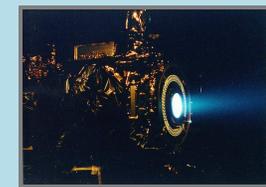
**Human Exploration Tele-robotics**



**Autonomous Landing & Hazard Avoidance Technology (ALHAT)**

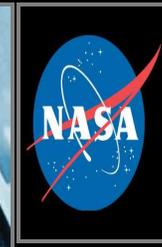
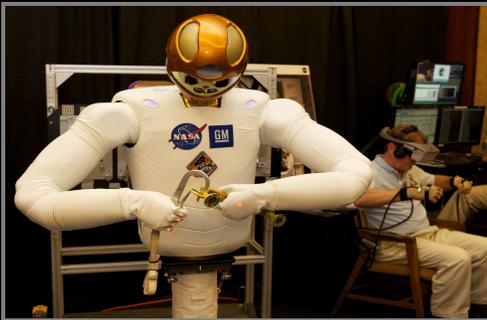
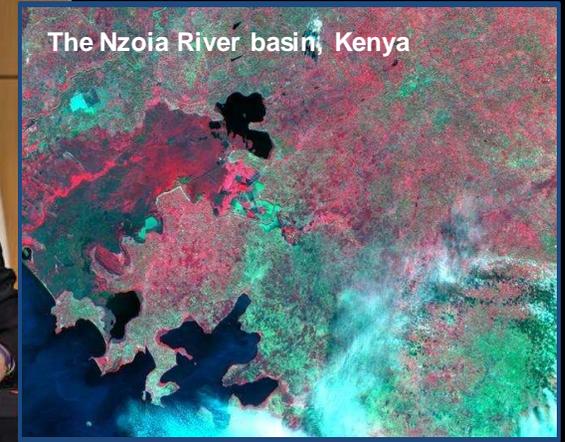


**MSL Entry Descent and Landing Instrument (MEDLI)**



**Solar Electric Propulsion**

# Partnerships and Technology Transfer



# NASA Space Technology Improving Our Lives



Advanced Diagnostic  
Ultrasound in Microgravity



LED Light Therapy For Pain  
Management



Groundwater Remediation



Clean Energy



Winglets Save Fuel Cost



Lithium Batteries for Cars



Aerogel Insulation



Eye Exams



Infrared Thermometers



Memory Foam



Nutritional Supplements



Sports and Recreation

The background of the slide is a dark, cosmic scene. It features a variety of celestial bodies: a large, reddish-brown planet (Mars) in the center, a blue and white planet (Earth) in the bottom right corner, and a grey, cratered planet (the Moon) in the bottom left. The space is filled with numerous small, bright stars and a field of grey, rocky asteroids of various sizes scattered across the right side and bottom. The overall lighting is a mix of deep blues, purples, and greys, with bright points of light from the stars and planets.

# **Technological Leadership: The “Space Race” of Our Generation**

**“...out-innovate, out-educate,  
out-build...”**

**President Obama**



[www.nasa.gov/oct](http://www.nasa.gov/oct)