



# Space Technology Mission Directorate Briefing

NAC T&I Committee

Presented by:  
Dr. James Reuther  
Deputy Associate Administrator,  
Space Technology Mission Directorate

July 30, 2013



# Why Invest in Space Technology?

- Enables a **new class of NASA missions** beyond low Earth Orbit.
- **Delivers innovative solutions** that dramatically improve technological capabilities for NASA and the Nation.
- Develops technologies and capabilities that make NASA's missions **more affordable and more reliable**.
- Invests in the economy by **creating markets and spurring innovation** for traditional and emerging aerospace business.
- **Engages the brightest minds** from academia in solving NASA's tough technological challenges.

## Addresses National Needs

A generation of studies and reports (40+ since 1980) document the need for regular investment in new, transformative space technologies.



**Value to NASA**

**Value to the Nation**



## Who:

The NASA Workforce  
 Academia  
 Industry & Small Businesses  
 Other Government Agencies  
 The Broader Aerospace Enterprise

# Challenges for Deep Space Exploration



Communication



Environment  
Control &  
Life Supporting  
Systems



Logistics



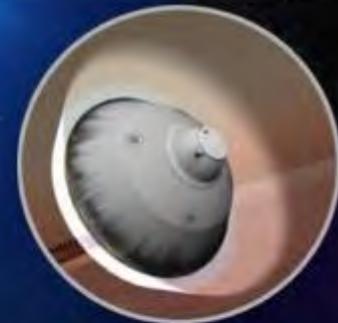
Power  
Generation  
& Storage



Navigation



Manufacturing  
In Space &  
For Space



Entry,  
Descent  
& Landing



Radiation  
Mitigation



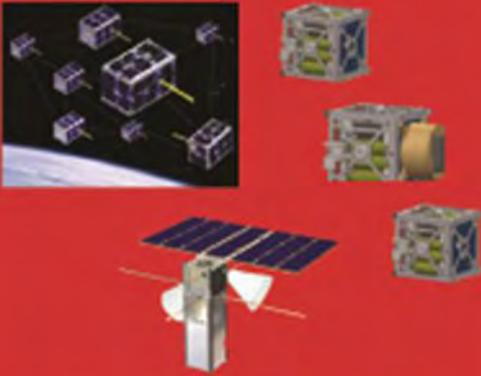
Propulsion



# Trends in Space Technology



## Small Spacecraft



## Entry, Descent & Landing



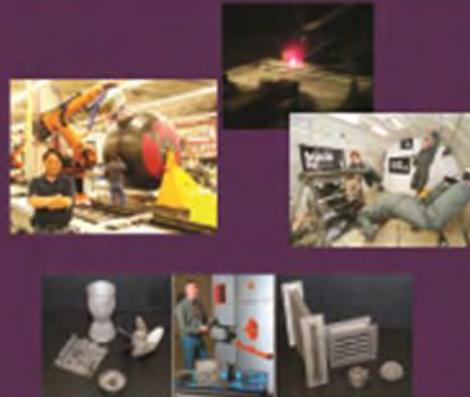
## Propulsion



## Robotics



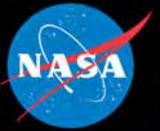
## Manufacturing



## Communications

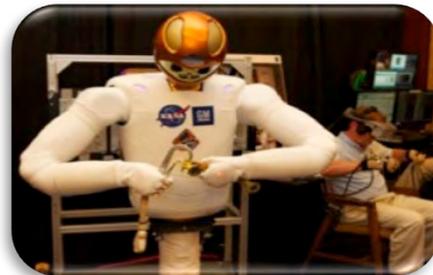
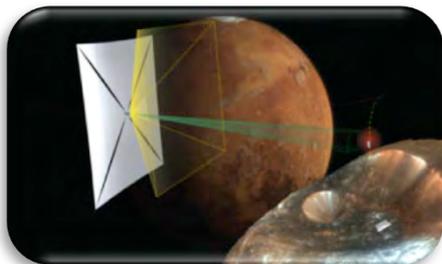


# Guiding Principles of the Space Technology Programs



## Space Technology Programs

- **Adheres to a Stakeholder Based Investment Strategy:** NASA Strategic Plan, NASA Space Technology Roadmaps / NRC Report and Strategic Space Technology Investment Plan
- **Invests in a Comprehensive Portfolio:** Covers low to high TRL, student fellowships, grants, prize competitions, prototype developments, and technology demonstrations
- **Advances Transformative and Crosscutting Technologies:** Enabling or broadly applicable technologies with direct infusion into future missions
- **Selects Using Merit Based Competition:** Research, innovation and technology maturation open to academia, industry, NASA centers and other government agencies
- **Executes with Structured Projects:** Clear start and end dates, defined budgets and schedules, established milestones, and project authority and accountability.
- **Infuses Rapidly or Fails Fast:** Rapid cadence of technology maturation and infusion, informed risk tolerance to infuse as quickly as possible
- **Positions NASA at the cutting edge of technology:** Results in new inventions, enables new capabilities and creates a pipeline of innovators for National needs



# Space Technology Portfolio



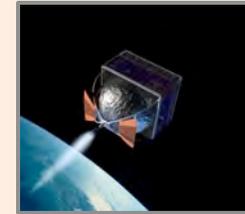
Transformative & Crosscutting Technology Breakthroughs



**Game Changing Development (ETD/CSTD)**



**Technology Demonstration Missions (ETD/CSTD)**



**Small Spacecraft Technologies (CSTD)**

Pioneering Concepts/ Developing Innovation Community



**Space Technology Research Grant (CSTD)**



**NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) (CSTD)**



**Center Innovation Fund (CSTD)**

Creating Markets & Growing Innovation Economy



**Centennial Challenges (CSTD)**

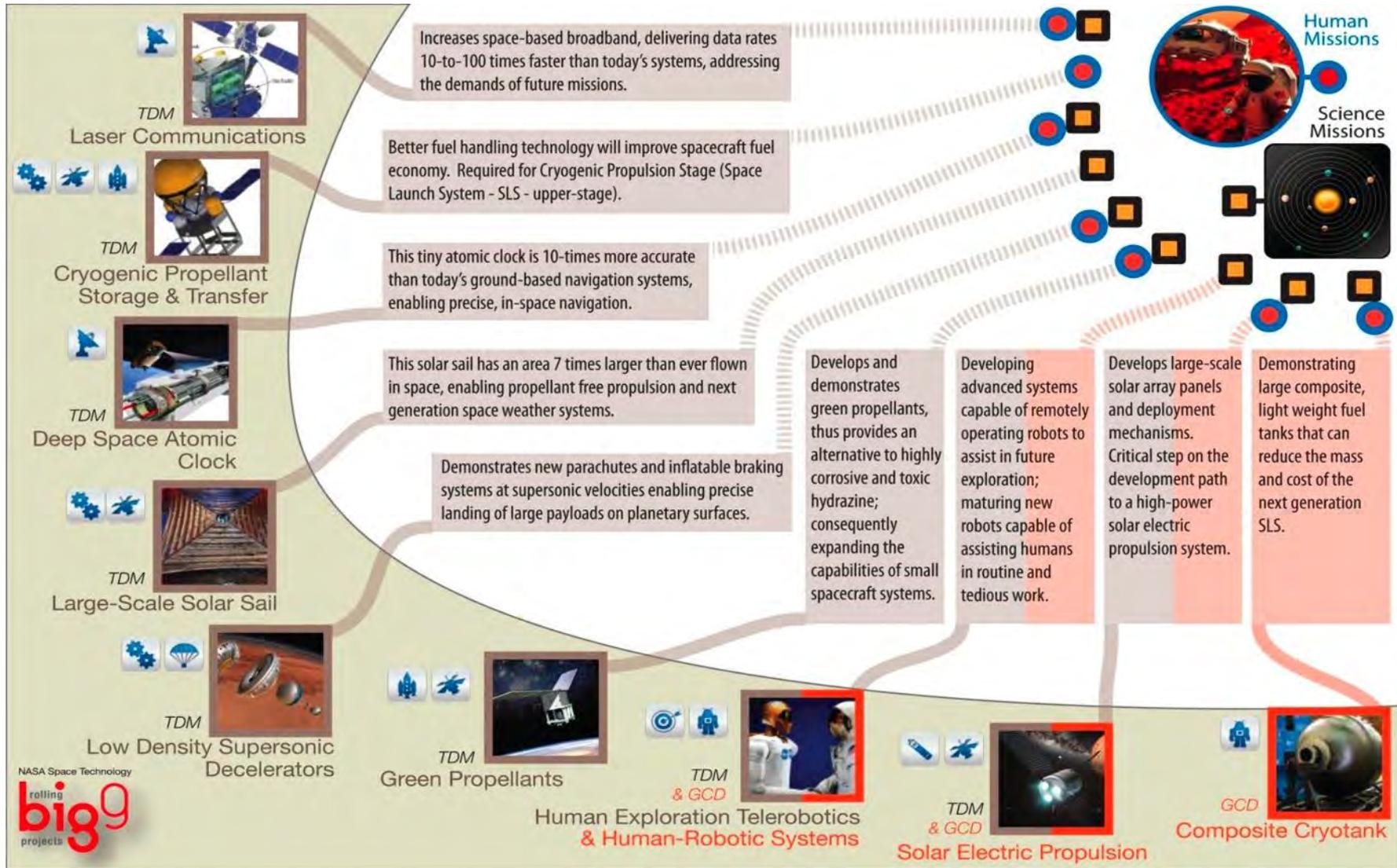


**Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR)**



**Flight Opportunities Program (CSTD)**

# FY2014 Big Nine



# Space Technology Major Events & Milestones

2012



HIAD  
IRVE 3



Telerobotics



MEDLI

2013



Telerobotics



PhoneSat



Edison Demo  
SmallSat

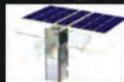
2014



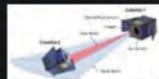
Solar  
Sail



Telerobotics



ISARA



OCSD



Supersonic  
Inflatable  
Aerodynamic  
Decelerator

2015



CPOD

Atomic  
Clock



Green  
Propellant



Supersonic  
Inflatable  
Aerodynamic  
Decelerator

2016



Cryogenic  
Propellant



SEP Demo  
Mission

2018



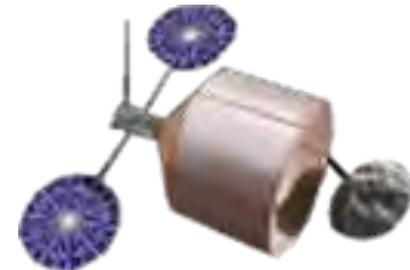
Laser  
Communications

Future Planning

# Asteroid Initiative: Asteroid Redirect Mission & Agency Grand Challenge

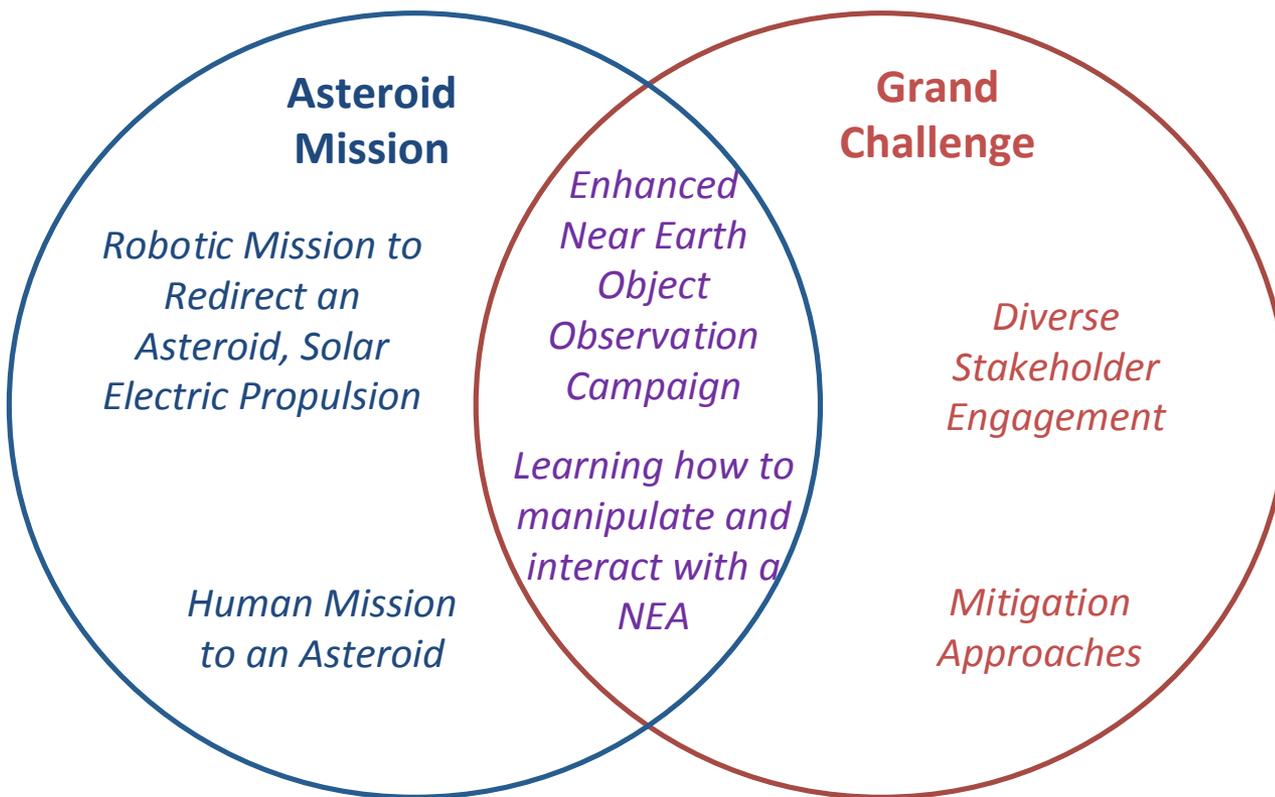


- NASA is planning a first-ever mission to capture and redirect an asteroid to earth-moon space. The effort aligns and leverages relevant portions of NASA's Science, Space Technology, and Human Exploration capabilities
- NASA will also lead a broad effort to find all asteroid threats to human populations and know what to about them: a "Grand Challenge"
- The overall mission is composed of three independently compelling elements:
  - Detection and characterization of candidate near earth asteroids
  - Robotic rendezvous, capture and redirection of an asteroid to earth-moon space
  - Crewed mission to explore and sample the captured asteroid using the Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion crew capsule
- Space Technology will focus on high-powered Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP)
  - SEP is the primary propulsion for the robotic asteroid rendezvous and redirection
  - The retrieval mission is not possible without SEP
  - SEP is also enabling for deep space human exploration
  - SEP component technologies serve commercial needs
  - In FY14 STMD will accelerate SEP development



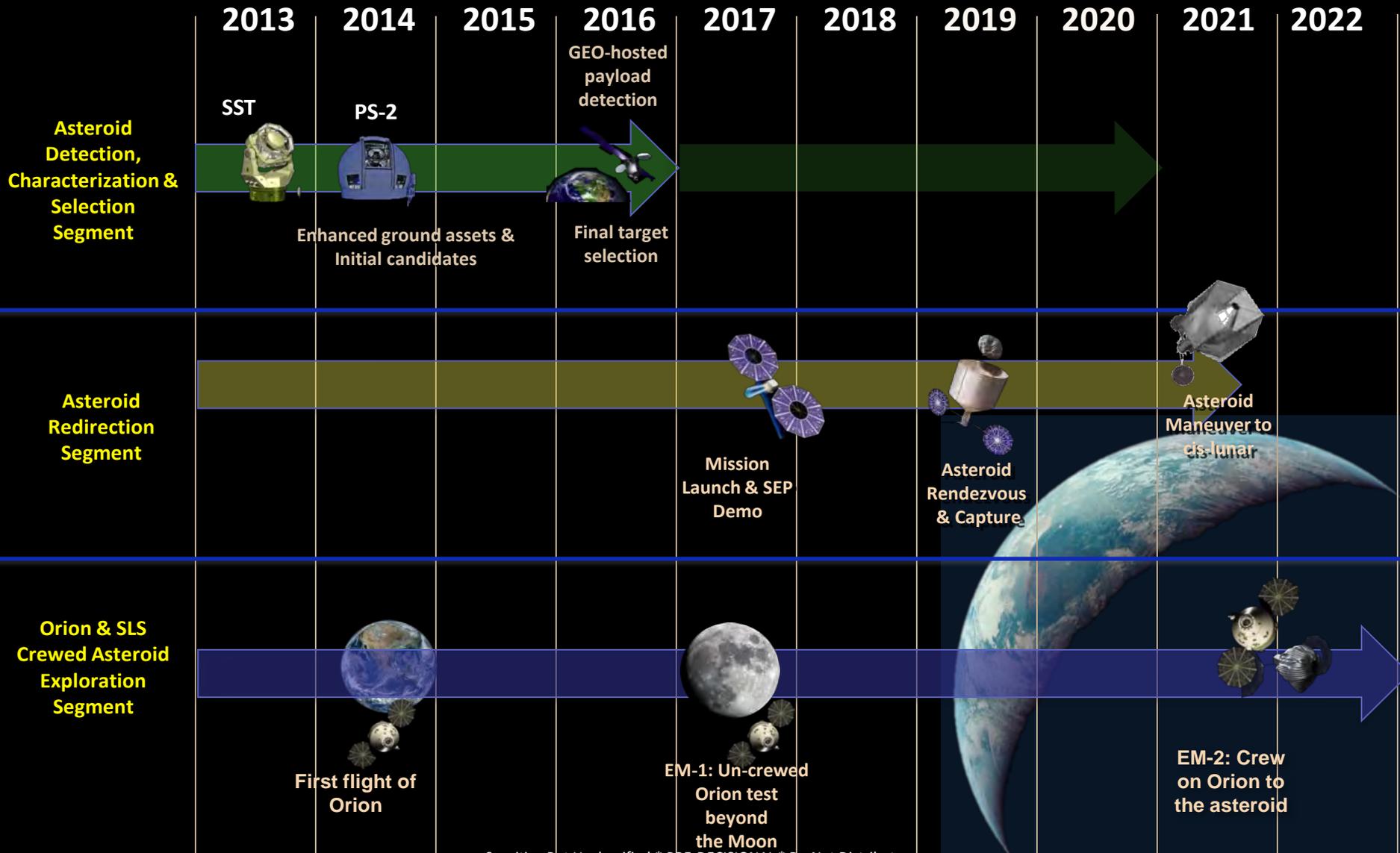


# FY14 Asteroid Initiative



Both sets of activities leverage existing NASA work while amplifying participatory engagement to accomplish their individual objectives and synergize for a greater collective purpose.

# Alignment Strategy



# Space Tech Role in Agency Asteroid Strategy



Early Stage programs will foster innovation regarding:

- Asteroid detection, characterization and mitigation for planetary defense and asteroid retrieval mission target selection
- Asteroid proximity operations and resource utilization techniques

Game Changing will complete high power SEP tech development:

- Advanced solar array systems
- Advanced magnetic shielded Hall thrusters
- Power processing units (PPUs)

Technology Demonstration Missions will develop, test and demonstrate the SEP system as part of the redirect mission:

- 30kW – 50 kW advanced solar arrays
- EP thrusters & Power Processing
- Xenon propellant tanks

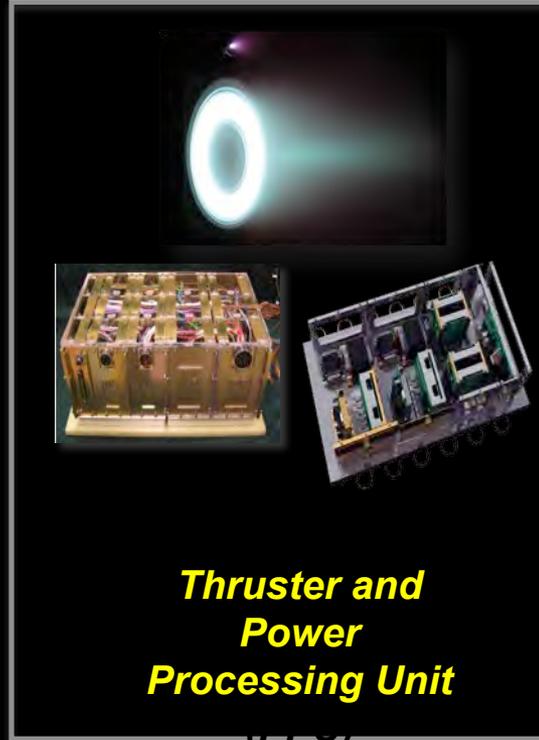
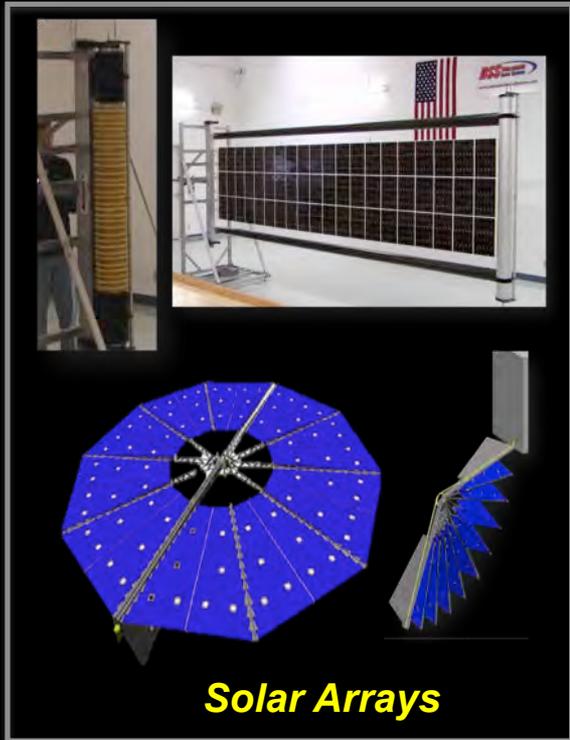
Additional Asteroid Redirect funding in FY2014 will cover:

- Flight hardware solar array procurements
- EP thruster engineering development units
- Design of Xenon propellant tanks





# High-Powered Solar Electric Propulsion





# High-powered SEP Enables Multiple Applications



**Deep Space Human Exploration**



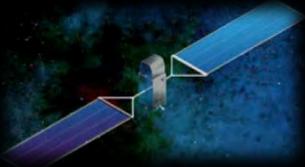
**Satellite Servicing**



**Payload Delivery**



**Commercial Space Applications**



**Solar Electric Propulsion**

**ISS Utilization**



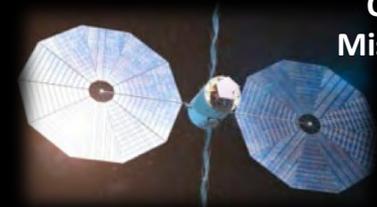
**Orbital Debris Removal**



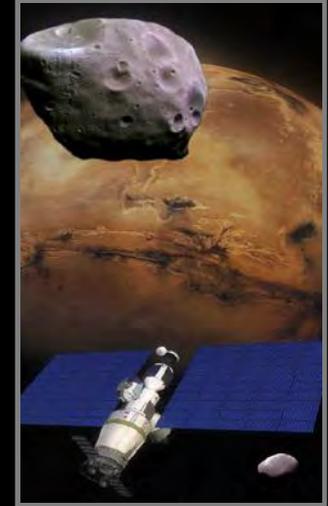
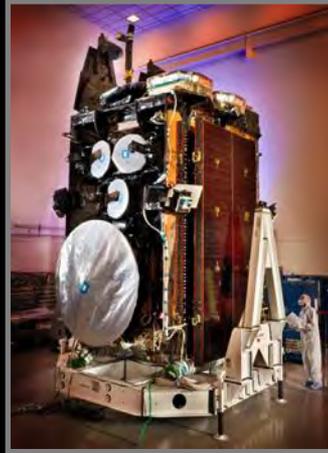
**Space Science Missions**



**OGA Missions**



# Advancing Solar Electric Propulsion Technology



<b>Deep Space 1 1998</b>	<b>Dawn 2007</b>	<b>AEHF Recovery 2010</b>	<b>Asteroid Redirect Mission</b>	<b>Far-term Exploration Missions circa 2030's</b>
<b>Technology Demonstrator</b>	<b>Deep-Space Science Mission</b>	<b>Satellite orbit established with Hall Thrusters</b>	<b>Robotic Mission to Redirect Asteroid to Trans-Lunar Orbit</b>	<b>Crewed mission beyond Earth space</b>
<b>2.5 kW power system 2kW EP system</b>	<b>10 kW power system 2.5kW EP system</b>	<b>~16kW-class power ~4.5kW-class EP</b>	<b>50kW-class power system 10 kW-class EP</b>	<b>350kW-class power system 300kW-class EP</b>



# HEOMD / STMD Programmatic Synergy



**Exploration Technology Development (ETD) work resides in two Space Technology Programs:**

- Game Changing Development (GCD)
- Technology Demonstration Missions (TDM)

**ETD Focus:**

- Cross-cutting, pioneering technology development
- Not systems level development or integration
- TRL 7 or below
- Infusion into HEOMD; SMD, OGAs and the Aerospace Enterprise

**AES Program within HEOMD manages system-level integration work and prototype / design development for future exploration architecture elements.**

**The Human Research Program (HRP) undertakes technology development and basic research in related areas, e.g. radiation mitigation**

# Guidance for the Combined AES/STMD Portfolio



Human Architecture Team:  
Design Reference Missions

Strategic Knowledge Gaps:  
Guide robotic precursor activities

HEOMD Time-Phased Capability-Investment Priorities

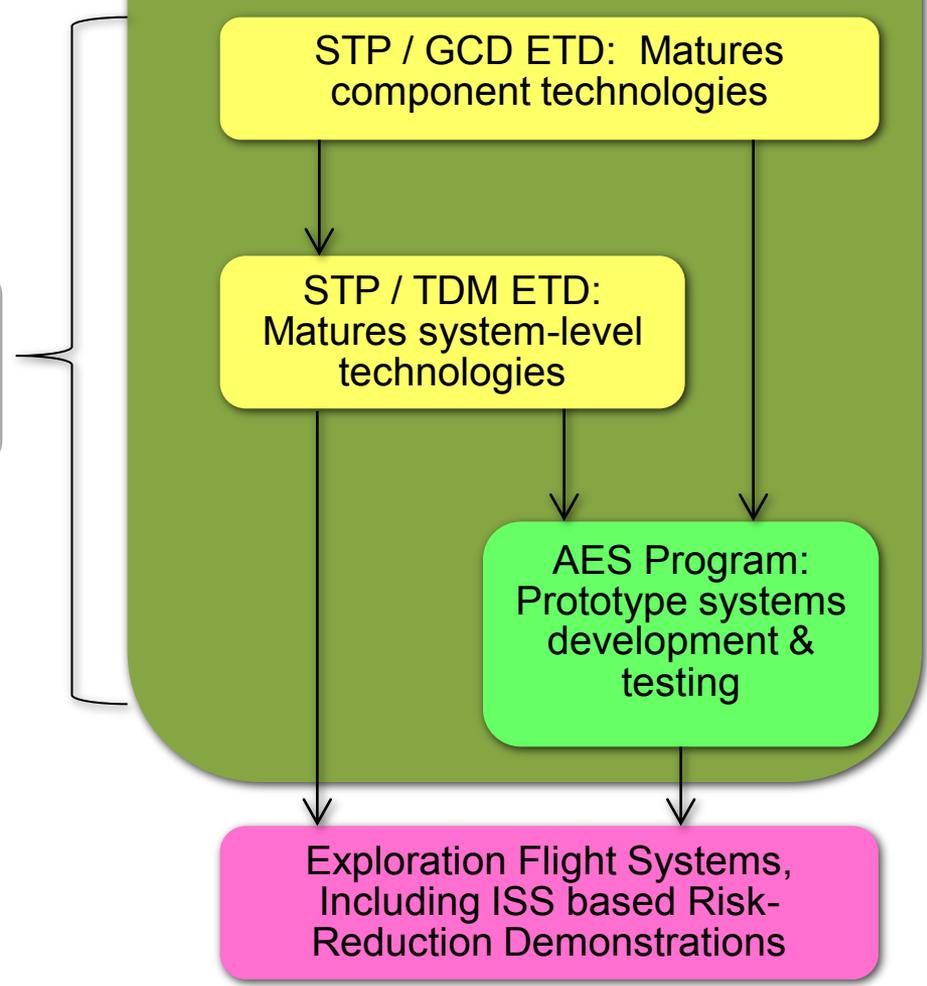
Strategic Space Technology Investment Plan: used to balance Agency investments

STP / GCD ETD: Matures component technologies

STP / TDM ETD: Matures system-level technologies

AES Program: Prototype systems development & testing

Exploration Flight Systems, Including ISS based Risk-Reduction Demonstrations



# First Steps Towards Mars



Mission Sequence	Asteroid Redirect Mission	Long Stay In Deep Space	Humans to Mars Orbit	Humans to Mars Surface
ISRU & Surface Power				X
Surface Habitat				X
EDL, Human Lander				X
Aero-capture			X	X
Adv. Upper Stage w Cryo-Prop storage & Transfer			X	X
Deep Space Habitat (DSH)		X	X	X
High Reliability ECLSS		X	X	X
Autonomous Assembly		X	X	X
SEP for Cargo / Logistics	X	X	X	X
Deep Space GNC	X	X	X	X
Crew Operations beyond LEO (Orion)	X	X	X	X
Crew Return from Beyond LEO – HS Entry (Orion)	X	X	X	X
Heavy Lift to Beyond LEO (SLS)	X	X	X	X

STMD/ETD  
Investments

HEOMD/ESD/AES  
Investments

HEOMD/ESD/AES +  
STMD/ETD  
Investments

# Exploration Technology Development



## Infusion



SLS/  
MPCV



SEV



EVA



DSH



Mission  
Operations



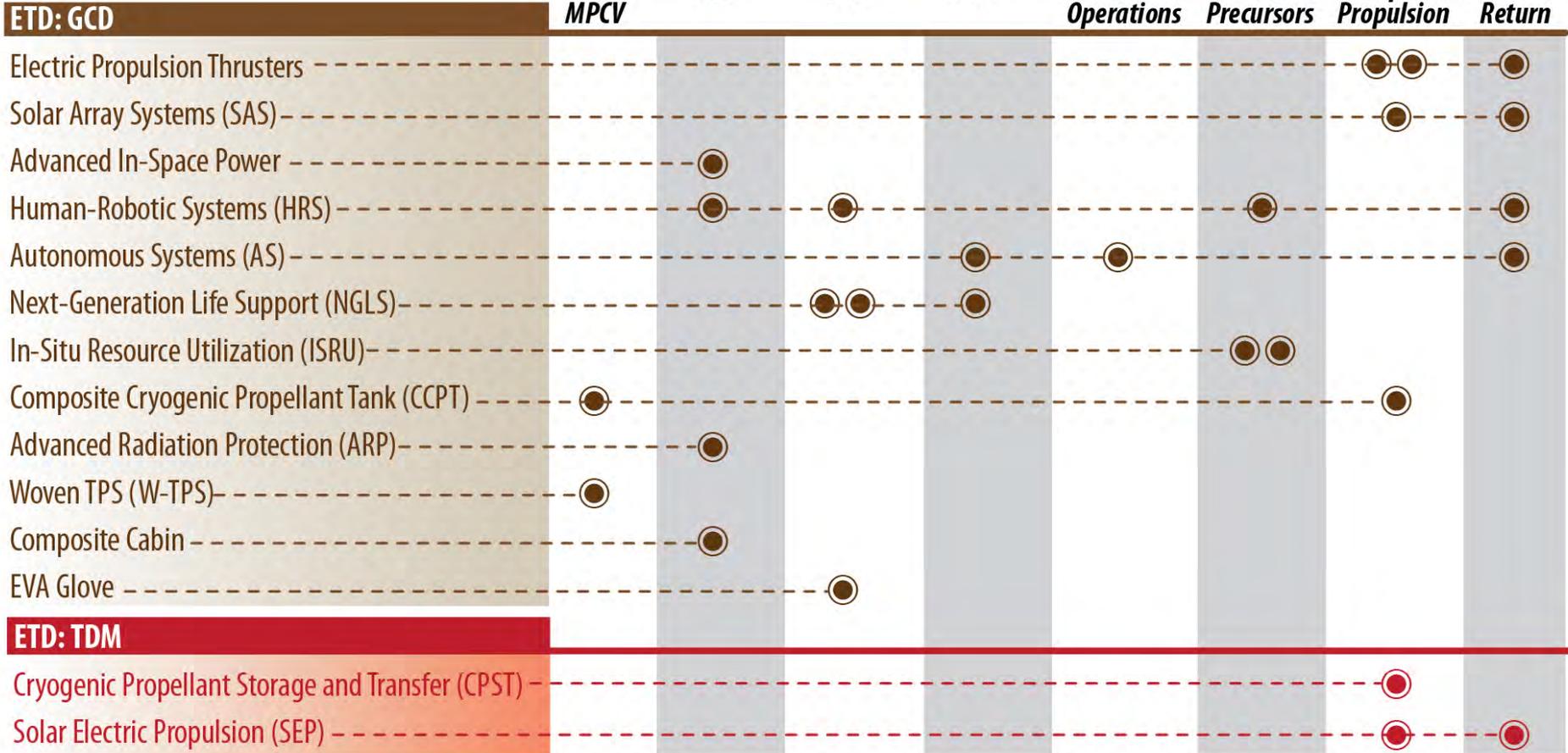
Robotic  
Precursors



In-Space  
Propulsion



Asteroid  
Return





# MARS CHALLENGES

## Surface Power



## Life Support



## Human Ops Support and Robotics



## Mars Resource Utilization and Ascent from Surface



## Space Radiation



## Entry, Descent, and Landing (EDL)



## Communications and Navigation



## Transit (Cargo and Humans)





# MARS CHALLENGES

## TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

### ■ Surface Power

- Fission/solar power
- Fuel cells/batteries

### ■ Life Support

- Next-Gen highly reliable and closed-loop life support.
- Advanced EVA suits

### ■ Human Ops Support and Robotics

- Telerobotics
- Robotics—task removal from astronauts
- Autonomous systems

### ■ Mars Resource Utilization and Ascent from Surface

- Utilization of in-situ resources
- Generation of human consumables
- Creation of propellant

### ■ Space Radiation

- Radiation protection
- Radiation modeling, characterization, and measurement

### ■ Entry, Descent, and Landing

#### ■ ECL Systems for Human Class Missions

- Hypersonic entry systems
- Supersonic descent systems

### ■ Communications and Navigation

- Optical communication
- Advanced guidance systems

### ■ Transit (Cargo and Humans)

- Solar electric propulsion
- Lightweight structures and materials
- Cryogenic propellant storage and transfer

## MARS CHALLENGES

# STMD INVESTMENTS

### Surface Power

- Advanced batteries
- Regenerative fuel cells
- Fission nuclear systems
- Solar arrays



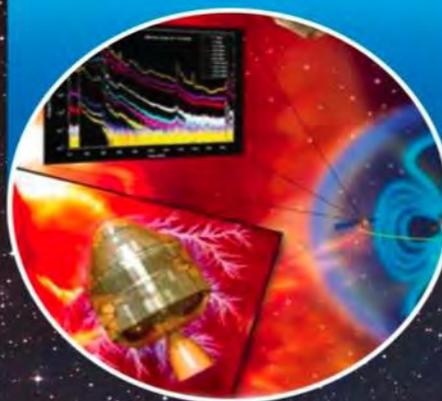
### Life Support

- CO<sub>2</sub> to O<sub>2</sub> recovery
- Water processing
- Air regulators



### Space Radiation

- Advanced radiation protection
- Radiation modeling and forecasting
- Dosimeters



### Entry, Descent, and Landing

- Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator/High-Energy Atmospheric Reentry Test
- Adaptive Deployable Entry Systems Project
- Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator
- MSL Entry, Descent, and Landing Instrument
- Heat Shield for Extreme Entry Environment Technology
- Supersonic Retro Propulsion
- Hypersonic Entry, Descent, and Landing



## MARS CHALLENGES

# STMD INVESTMENTS

### Transit (Cargo and Humans)

- Composite Cryotank
- Cryogenic Propellant Storage and Transfer
- Lightweight Materials and Structures
- Solar Electric Propulsion



### Mars Resource Utilization and Ascent from Surface

- O<sub>2</sub> from Mars atmosphere
- RESOLVE instruments
- Propellant production



### Communications and Navigation

- Deep Space Atomic Clock
- Laser Communication Relay Demonstration
- Deep Space Optical Communications



### Human Ops Support and Robotics

- Automated system ops
- Robotic, human safe, maintenance and ops
- Avionics/multicore processor





# Working Together to Innovate



