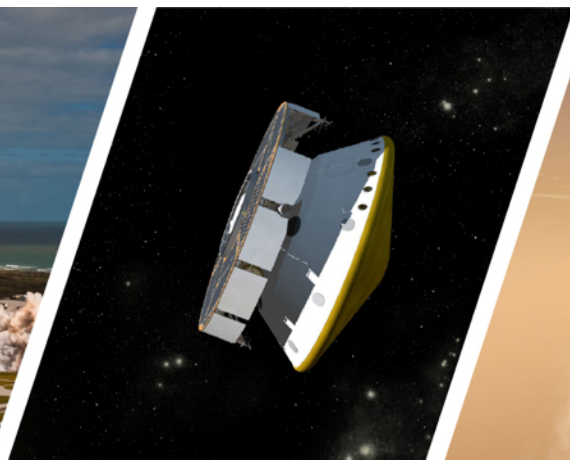


# Mars 2020 Mission Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting November 13, 14, and 15 2019



LAUNCH



CRUISE TO MARS



ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING



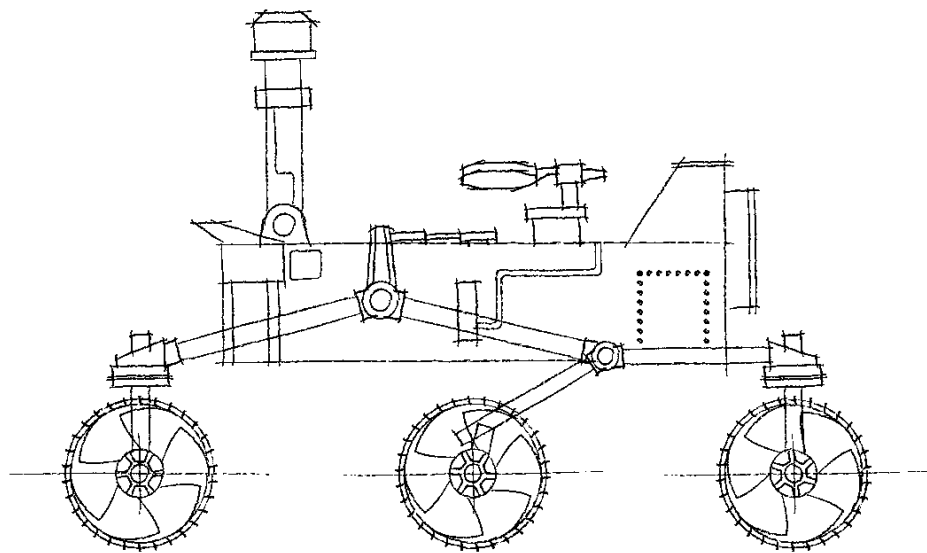
SURFACE MISSION ON MARS



# Overview of the NEPA Process for the Mars 2020 Mission

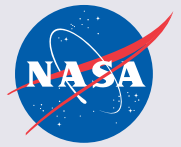
Tina Norwood  
NASA NEPA Manager

November 13, 14, and 15, 2019



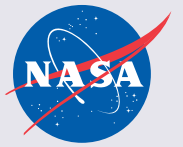
**Mars 2020 Project**

# NASA Mars 2020 SEIS Process



1. Notice of Intent (NOI) for Supplemental EIS published in Federal Register 9/26/19
2. Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft SEIS published in Federal Register 10/25/19
  - Requests public comment on the assessment of impacts presented in the Draft SEIS
3. **Public Meetings 13, 14, 15 November 2019**  
**Comment period ends 10 December 2019**
4. NOA of Final SEIS will be published in the Federal Register
5. Record of Decision (ROD) expected to be signed in Spring 2020

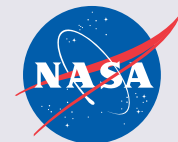




## There are several ways to keep informed about the SEIS for the Mars 2020 mission:

- Request to be added to the mailing list
- Access the active Web site
- Look for announcements of the availability of the Final SEIS in the Federal Register and in local Florida media

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/nepa-mars-2020-mission>



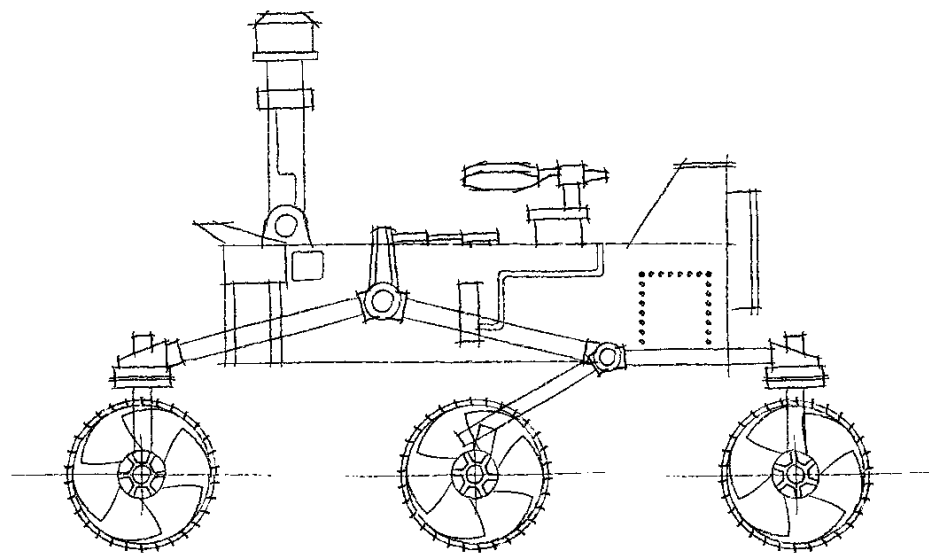
**Thank you for participating in the  
NEPA public comment process for  
the Mars 2020 mission.**

**We appreciate your time and input.**



# Mars 2020 Mission Overview

George Tahu  
Mars 2020 Program Executive  
NASA Headquarters

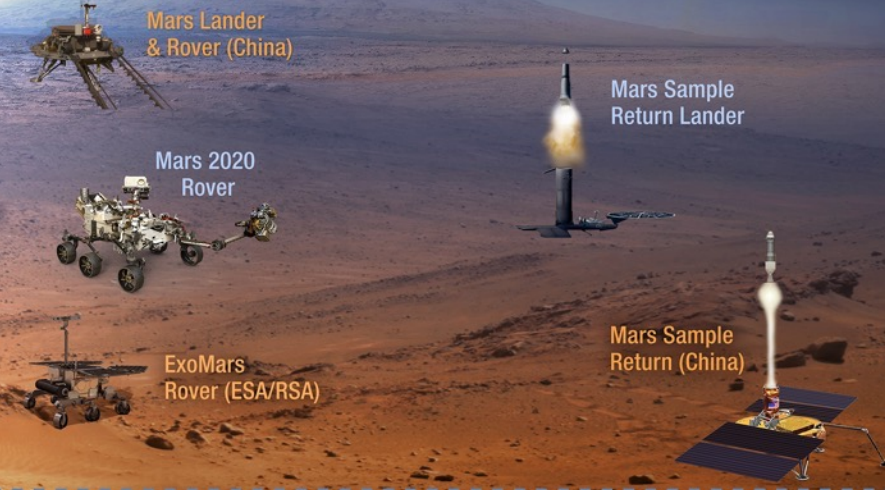
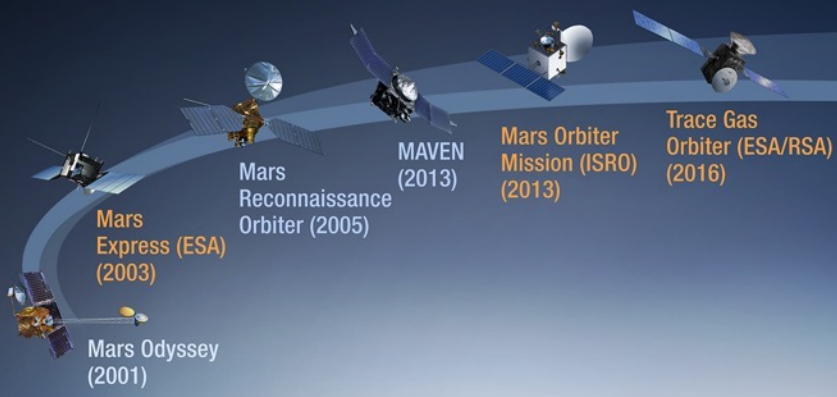


**Mars 2020 Project**

# MARS MISSIONS

## OPERATIONAL 2001–2019

## 2020 AND BEYOND



Follow the Water

Explore Habitability

Seek Signs of Life

Prepare for Future Human Explorers

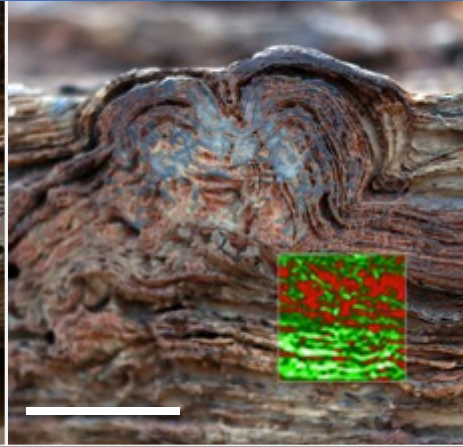
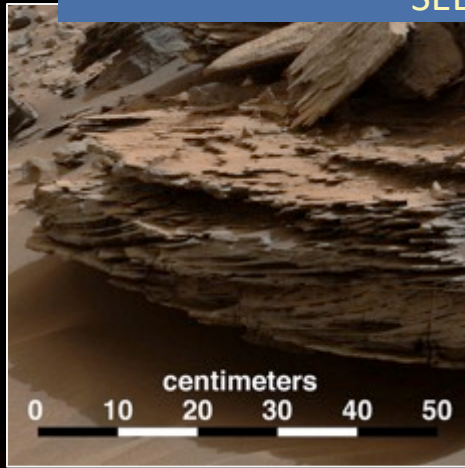
U.S. Missions

non-U.S. Missions

# Mars 2020 Mission Objectives



## SEEKING ANCIENT MICROBIAL LIFE



## FUTURE EXPLORATION



### GEOLOGY

- Explore an ancient environment on Mars
- Understand processes of formation and alteration

### ASTROBIOLOGY

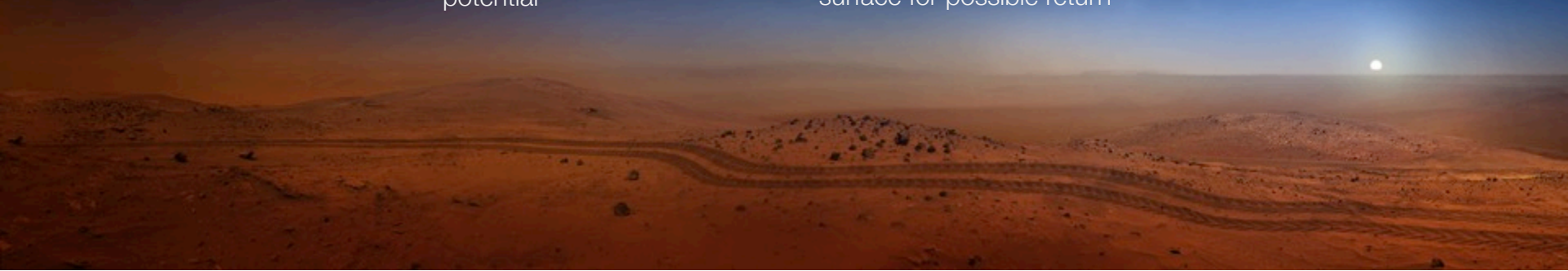
- Assess habitability of ancient environment
- Seek evidence of past life
- Identify locations with high biosignature preservation potential

### SAMPLE CACHING

- Capability to collect ~40 samples and blanks, 20 in prime mission
- Include geologic diversity
- Deposit samples on the surface for possible return

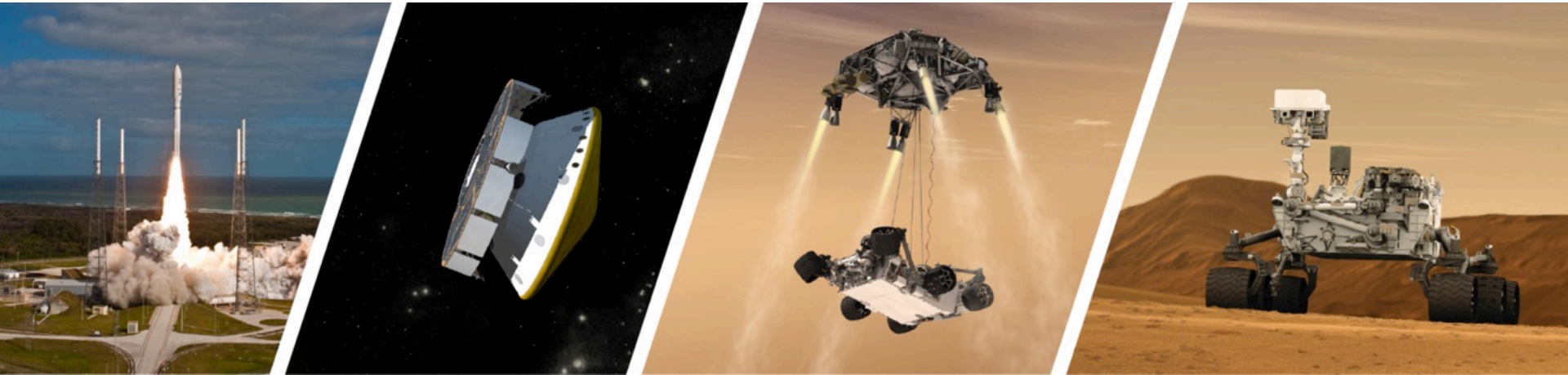
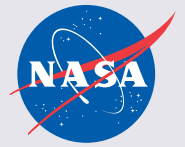
### PREPARE FOR HUMAN EXPLORATION

- Measure temperature, humidity, wind, and dust environment
- Demonstrate In Situ Resource Utilization by converting atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to O<sub>2</sub>





# Mars 2020 Mission Overview



## LAUNCH

- Atlas V 541 vehicle
- Launch Readiness Date: July 2020
- Launch window: July/August 2020

## CRUISE/APPROACH

- ~7 month cruise
- Arrive Feb 2021

## ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING

- MSL EDL system (Range Trigger and Terrain Relative Navigation): guided entry and powered descent/Sky Crane
- 16 x 14 km landing ellipse (range trigger baselined)
- Access to landing sites  $\pm 30^\circ$  latitude,  $\leq -0.5$  km elevation
- Curiosity-class Rover

## SURFACE MISSION

- 20 km traverse distance capability
- Enhanced surface productivity
- Qualified to 1.5 Martian year lifetime
- Seeking signs of past life
- Returnable cache of samples
- Prepare for human exploration of Mars
- Technology demonstrations for future exploration capabilities

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

# MARS 2020 NEW SCIENCE & CAPABILITIES



## LASER RETROREFLECTOR

## SUPERCAM



A laser that can investigate chemical compositions of Martian rocks and soil from a distance



## HELICOPTER EXPERIMENT



## RIMFAX

A ground-penetrating radar to explore beneath the surface.

## MMRTG

A plutonium power source supplies electricity to the rover.

## MASTCAM-Z

A zoomable panoramic camera.

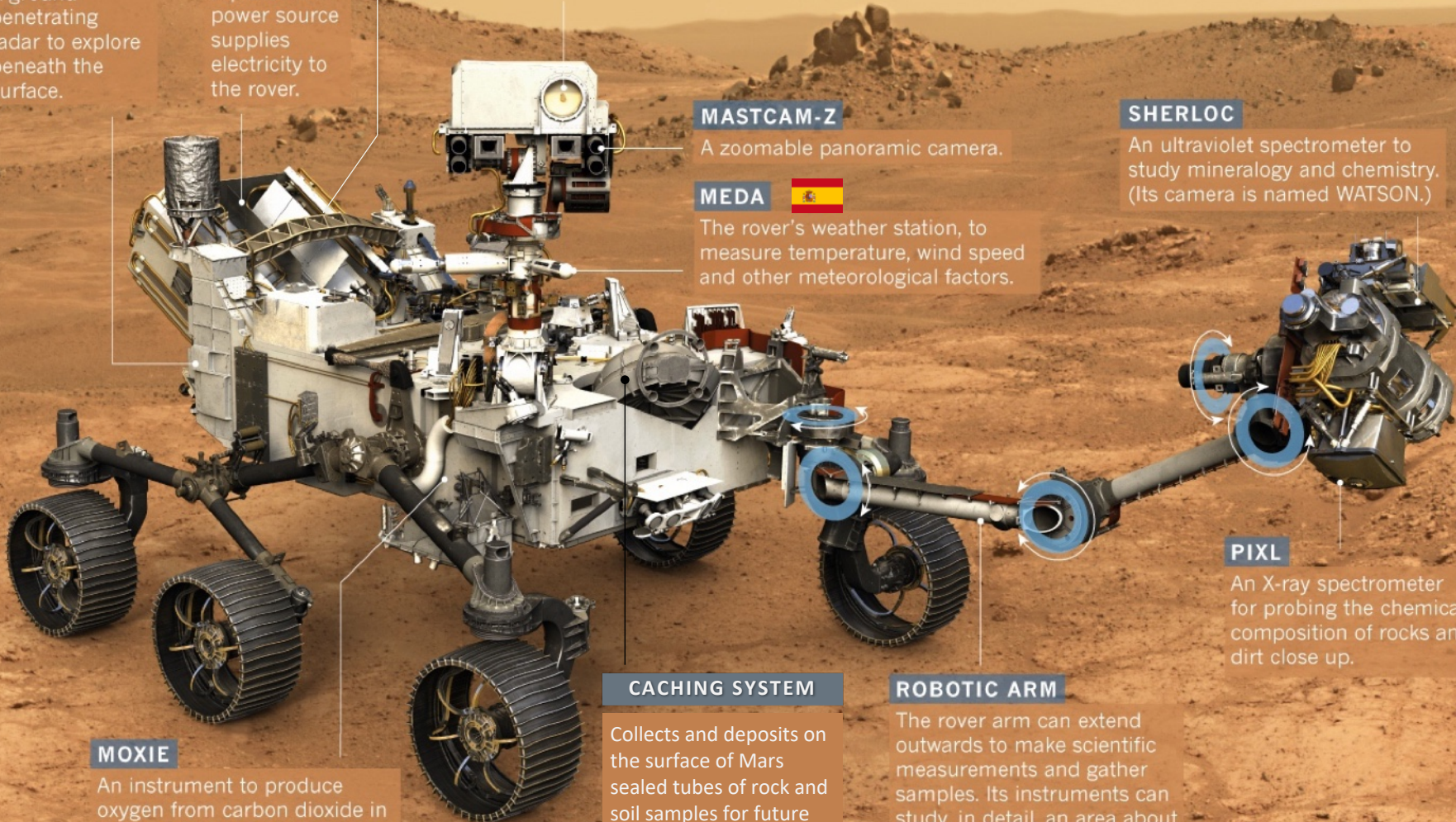
## MEDA



The rover's weather station, to measure temperature, wind speed and other meteorological factors.

## SHERLOC

An ultraviolet spectrometer to study mineralogy and chemistry. (Its camera is named WATSON.)



## MOXIE

An instrument to produce oxygen from carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere, as a test for creating resources for future astronauts.

## CACHING SYSTEM

Collects and deposits on the surface of Mars sealed tubes of rock and soil samples for future return to Earth

## ROBOTIC ARM

The rover arm can extend outwards to make scientific measurements and gather samples. Its instruments can study, in detail, an area about the size of a postage stamp.

## PIXL

An X-ray spectrometer for probing the chemical composition of rocks and dirt close up.

# Mars 2020 Rover Instrument Test

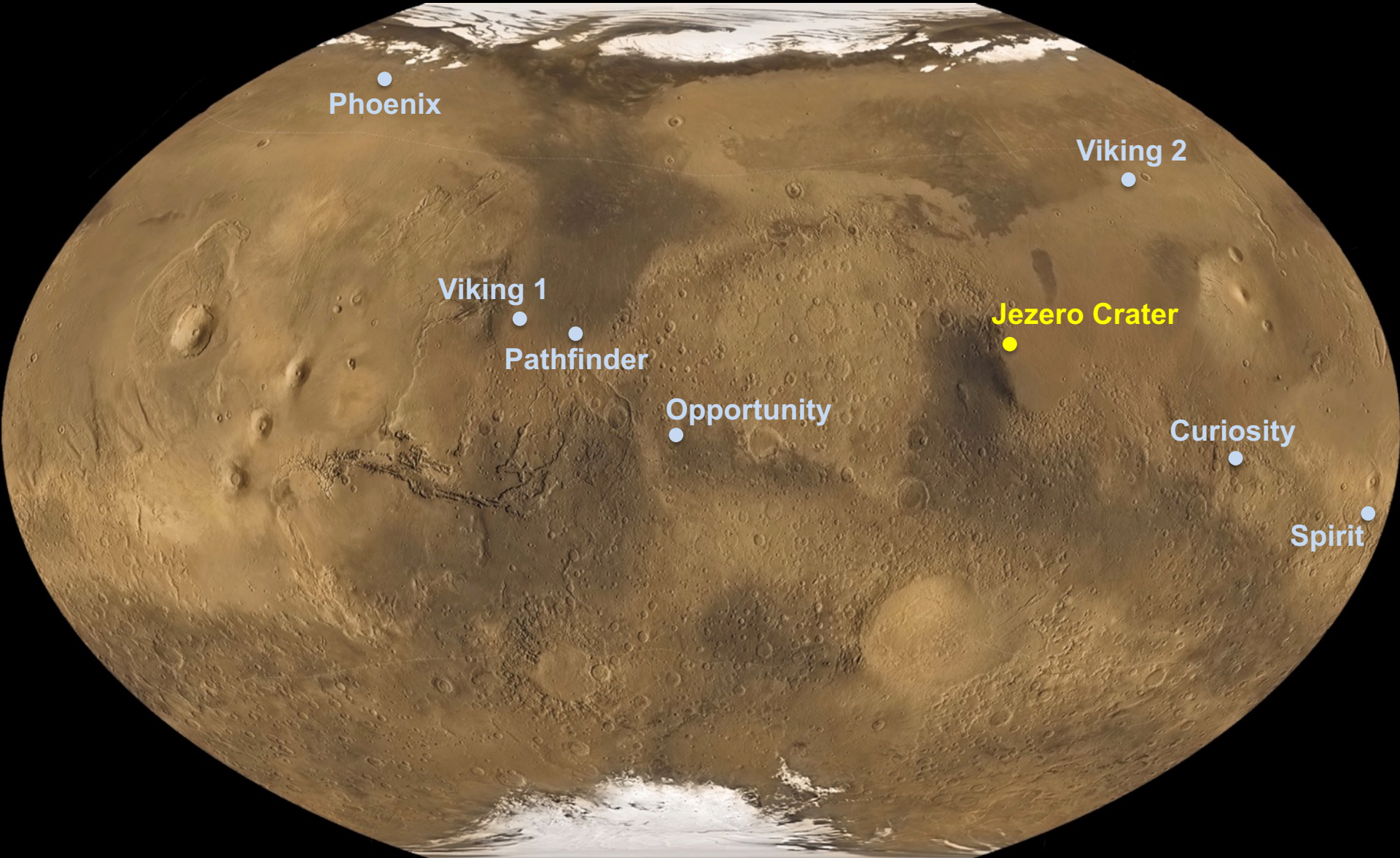


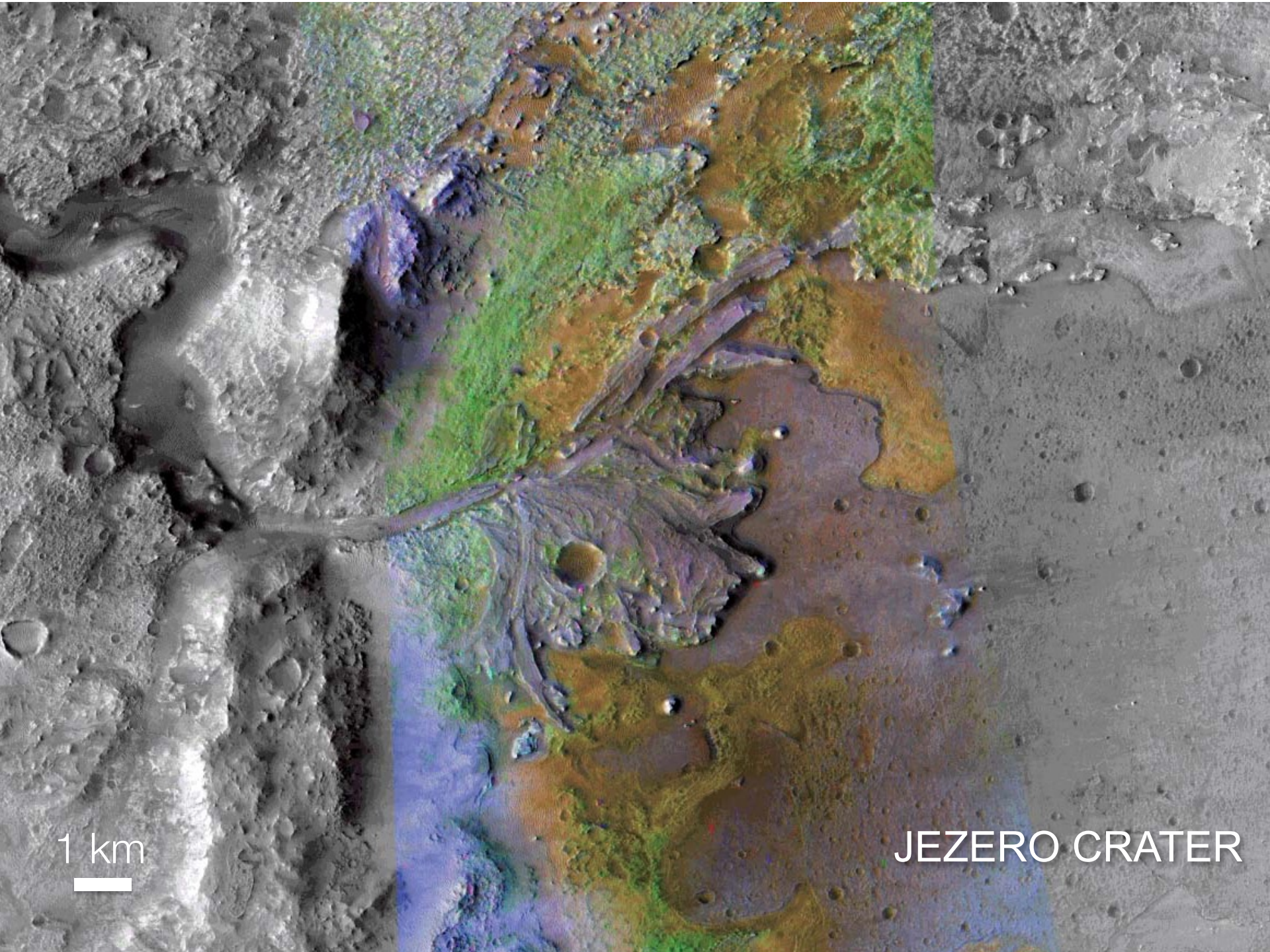
Rover and "Skycrane" Separation Test



Spacecraft Thermal Vacuum Test

# Mars 2020 Landing Site



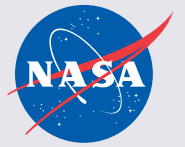


1 km



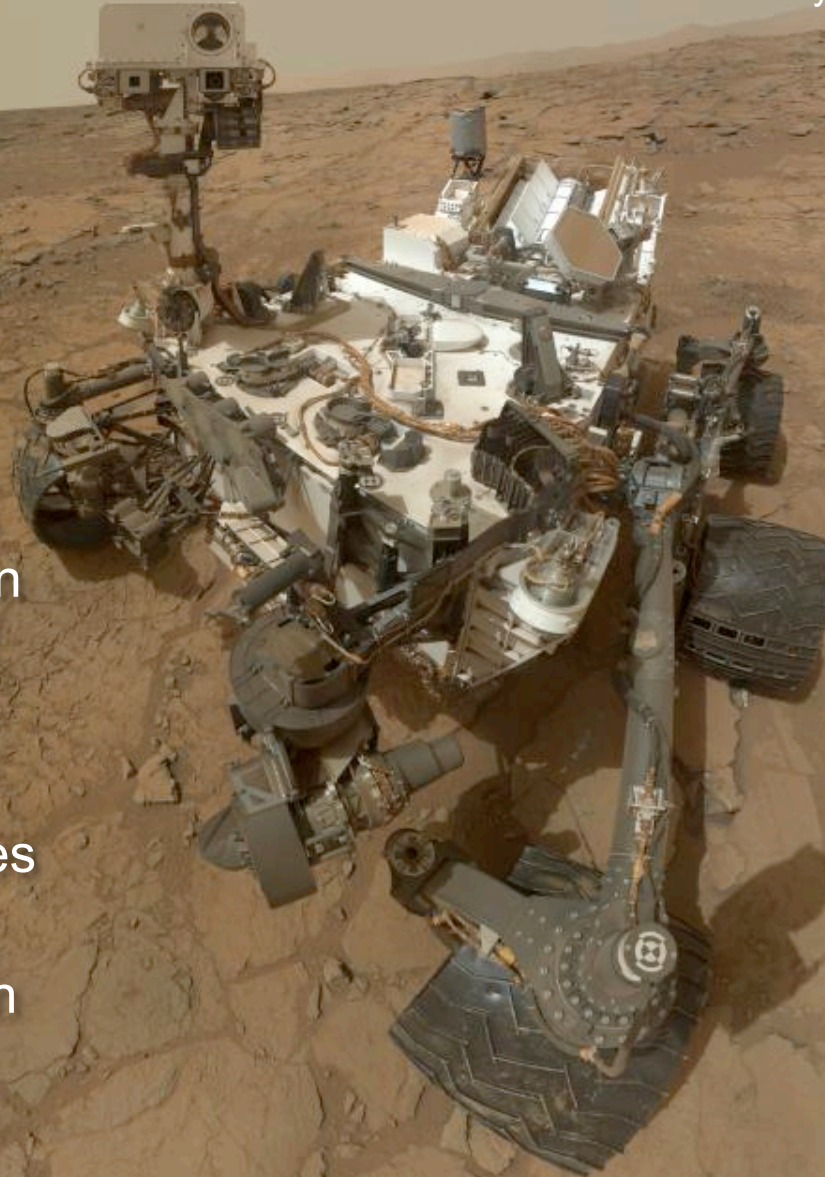
JEZERO CRATER

# MMRTG Power Alternative: Summary



Curiosity self-portrait on Mars

- Capable of full Martian year continuous surface science at any latitude between 30 S and 30 N
  - Includes worst observed dust storms and dust accumulation
  - Curiosity mission had similar requirements
- Full time available to achieve science objectives
- Maximizes high heritage from the Curiosity mission



# Radioisotope Power for the Mars 2020 Mission



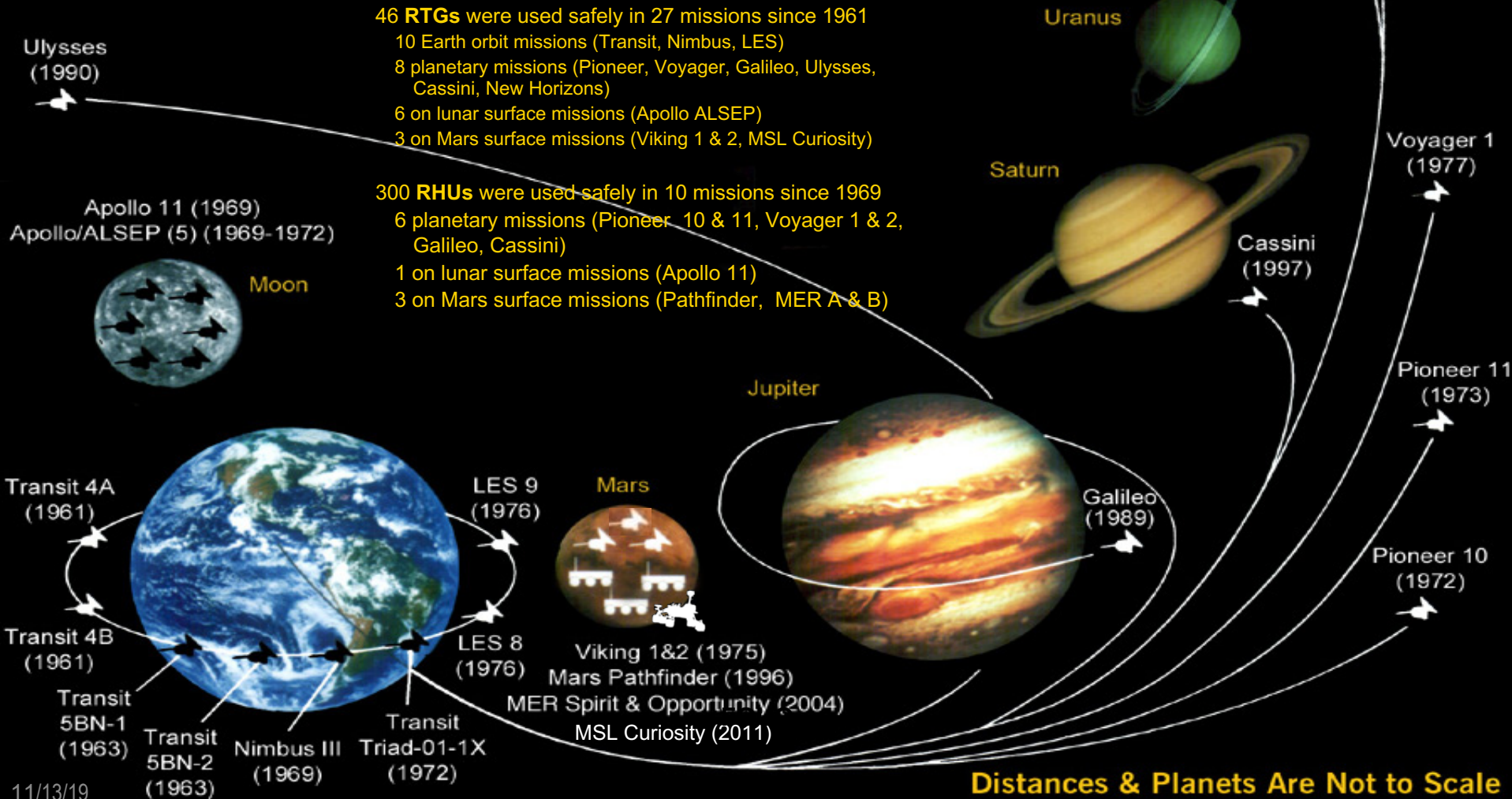
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Nuclear Energy



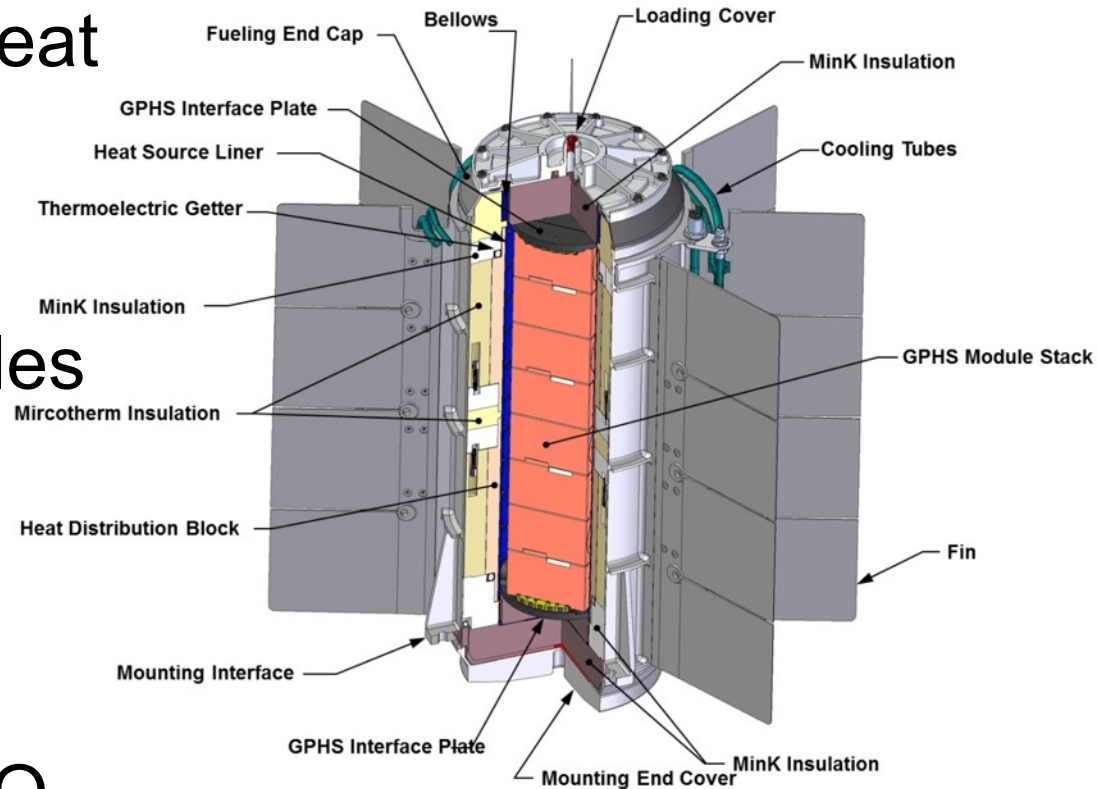


# Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs) Enable Exploration of the Outer Solar System



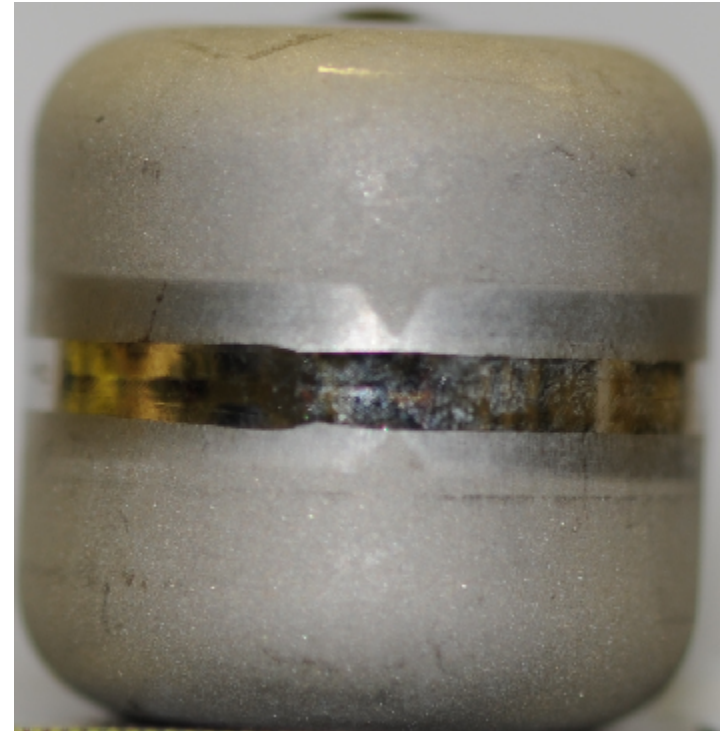
# Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG)

- 2000 W thermal of heat
- 110 W electricity at beginning of mission using 768 thermocouples
- ~26 inches (67 cm)
- ~25 inches wide
- ~95 lbs. (44 kg)
- 10.6 lbs. (4.8 kg)  $\text{PuO}_2$  protected within 8 GPHS modules

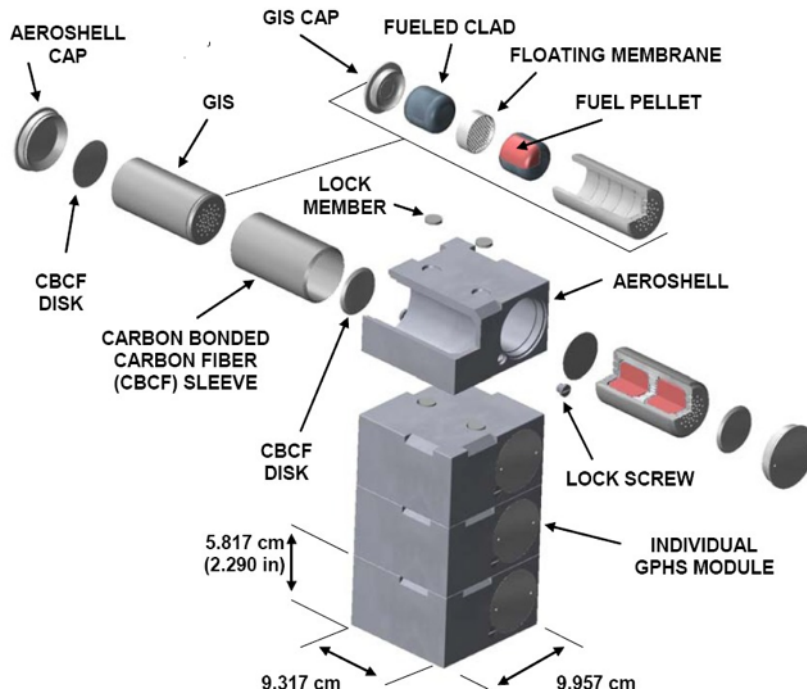


# Key Safety Features of Radioisotope Power Systems

- Ceramic Fuel
  - Very Low Vaporization Rate
  - Generation of Respirable Fines Minimized
  - Highly Insoluble
- Iridium Clad
  - Fuel Containment
  - Impact Protection
  - Corrosion Resistant
  - Material Compatibility
  - High Melting Point (2400 ° C)



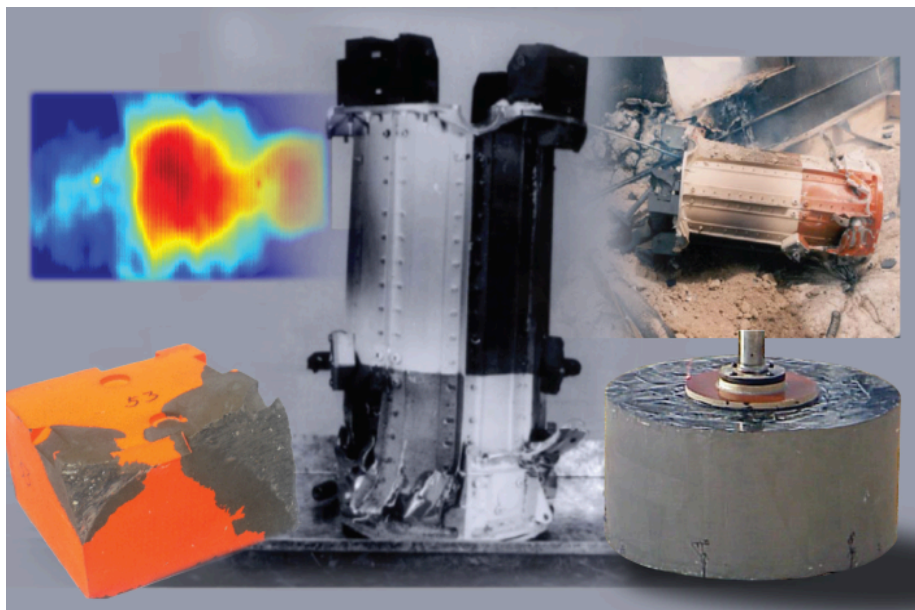
# Key Safety Features of Radioisotope Power Systems



- Graphite Impact Shell
  - Impact Protection
  - Reentry Ablation Protection
- Graphite Insulator
  - Reentry Thermal Protection
- Graphite Aeroshell
  - Impact Protection
  - Primary Reentry Ablation Protection

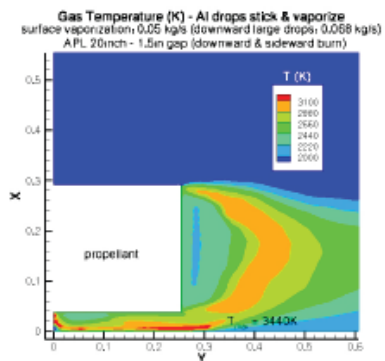
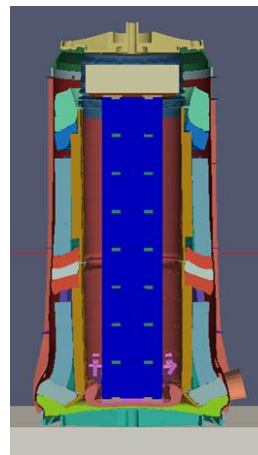
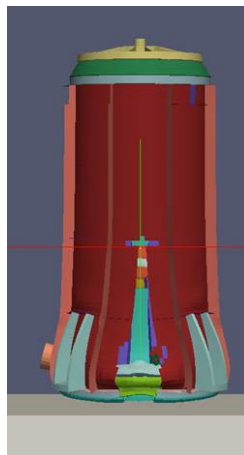
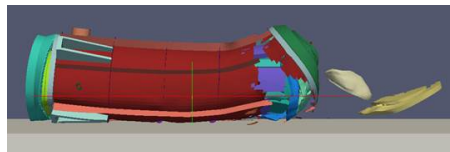
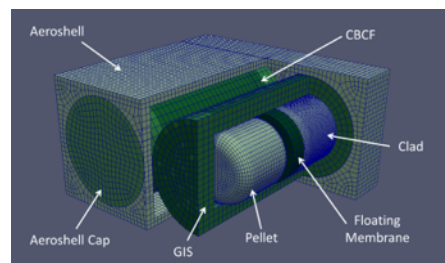
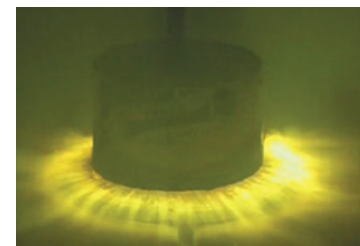
# Decades of Experience and Testing

- The current GPHS is an evolutionary improvement of a design that has functioned with extreme dependability for three decades
- Overall, the safety features of RPS have undergone a variety of destructive physical testing and detailed computer simulations since the beginning of the Space Age



# Analysis for Mars 2020

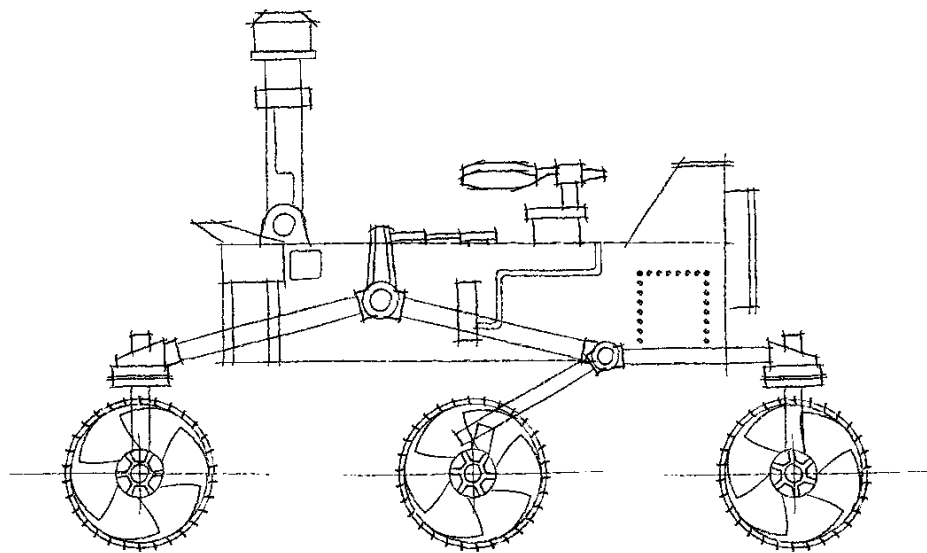
- DOE conducted a thorough safety analysis of the Mars 2020 Mission using the actual flight information chosen by NASA
- Millions of accidents were simulated using RPS safety testing data, meteorology, chemical and environmental models.
- Using state-of-the-art models and recent test data, DOE found that the risk for Mars 2020 is slightly higher than MSL, but within established safety guidelines.



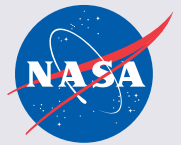


# Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Mars 2020 Mission

George Tahu  
Mars 2020 Program Executive



**Mars 2020 Project**



The Mars 2020 FEIS (released in 2014) **considered both radiological and non-radiological environmental impacts** from the proposed action—a rover powered by a Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG)—and alternatives.

**The analysis in the 2014 FEIS included potential impacts from:**

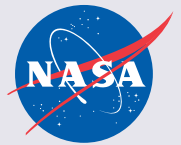
- Preparation for a Launch
- A Normal Launch
- Possible Launch Accidents

**The Record of Decision (issued in January 2015) selected the Proposed Action:**

- The Mars 2020 spacecraft would be launched on an expendable launch vehicle from Kennedy Space Center (KSC) or Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS), Brevard County, Florida, during a 20-day launch opportunity in July-August 2020.
- Should the mission be delayed, the mission could be launched in August-September 2022.
- The rover proposed for the Mars 2020 mission would utilize a Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator to provide electrical power to the rover's battery for the rover to operate and conduct science on the surface of Mars.



# Scope of 2019 Draft SEIS



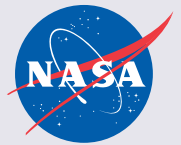
NASA and the Department of Energy have completed a more detailed risk analysis since the risk analysis used for the 2014 FEIS.

Based on the new and updated information associated with postulated launch vehicle accident scenarios resulting in potential release of nuclear material, NASA determined that the purposes of NEPA would be furthered by conducting additional environmental analysis and documentation via a SEIS.

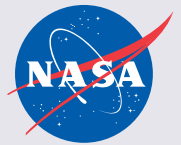
**The 2019 Draft SEIS only addresses potential impacts associated with accidents that result in the release of radiological material from the Proposed Action, as well as the No Action Alternative.**

**Potential impacts from the following activities in 2019 would be the same as those presented in the 2014 FEIS and therefore are not addressed in the Draft SEIS:**

- Preparation for a launch
- A normal launch
- Possible launch accidents not resulting in a radiological release

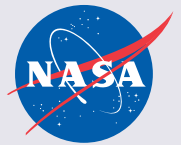


- **As addressed in the 2014 FEIS, the Proposed Action would have no significant non-radiological environmental impacts**
  - These impacts have been assessed in previous NASA environmental documentation
  - The assessments include consideration of air quality, water quality, noise, land use, biological and natural resources.
  - A launch vehicle accident near the launch area during the first few seconds of flight could result in the release of the propellants onboard the launch vehicle and the spacecraft, similar to a normal launch.
  - Emissions would not reach levels threatening public health and no significant impacts were identified.
- **In both the 2014 FEIS and the 2019 Draft SEIS the “No Action” Alternative = No Environmental Impacts**



- **2014 FEIS**
  - There was a 97.5% chance of a successful launch on a path to Mars
  - There was a 2.5% chance of a launch accident of any kind
  - There was a 0.04% chance of a launch accident resulting in a radiological release
- **2019 Draft SEIS**
  - There is a 98.7% chance of a successful launch on a path to Mars
  - There is a 1.3% chance of a launch accident of any kind
  - There is a 0.10% chance of a launch accident resulting in a radiological release
- **Changes are due to**
  - New knowledge gained about how the MMRTG is affected by accident scenarios;
  - Updated analytical models and computer simulation input parameters, informed by best available knowledge as well as lessons learned from other missions; and
  - Updates to account for specific design features of the selected launch vehicle.

# Mars 2020 Launch Probabilities (2014 vs. 2019)

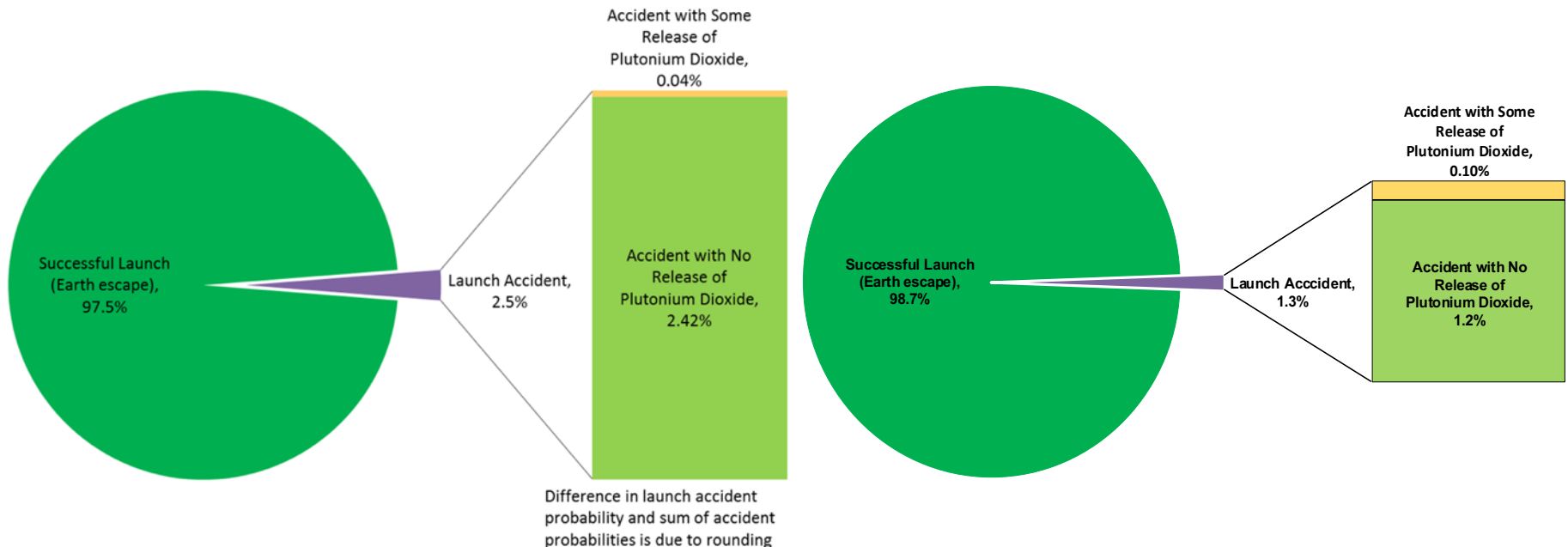


**2014 FEIS:** 1 in 2,600 (0.04%) chance of an accident with release of plutonium dioxide.

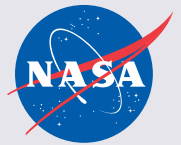
- 1 in 11,000 chance of a launch accident with release in the launch area.\*
- 1 in 3,500 chance of a launch accident with release outside the launch area.

**2019 SEIS:** 1 in 960 (0.10%) chance of an accident with release of plutonium dioxide.

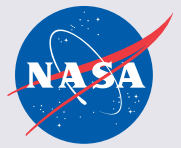
- 1 in 1,100 chance of a launch accident with release in the launch area.\*
- 1 in 12,000 chance of a launch accident with release outside the launch area.



# Estimated Consequences from an Early Launch Area Accident With a Release of Plutonium Dioxide (2014 vs. 2019)



- **The average radiation dose to the maximally exposed individual, assuming no mitigation measures are taken**
  - 2014 estimate: 60 millirem (equivalent to about 2 months of natural background radiation)
  - 2019 estimate: 210 millirem (equivalent to about 8 months of natural background radiation)
- **Land area that could potentially need evaluation for action (such as monitoring or cleanup)**
  - 2014 estimate: 7.4 km<sup>2</sup> (about 3 square miles)
  - 2019 estimate: 79 km<sup>2</sup> (about 31 square miles)
- **Within the entire group of potentially exposed individuals, the estimated incremental cancer fatalities over a 50 year period, assuming no mitigation measures are taken**
  - 2014 estimate: 0.29
  - 2019 estimate: 0.52

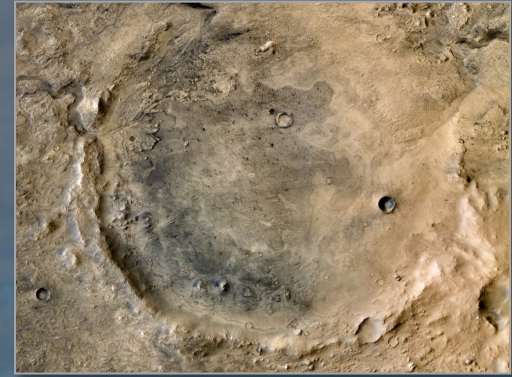


- Even though the chances of launch accidents are small, NASA prepares contingency response plans for every launch it conducts.
- NASA establishes a radiological assessment and command center that deploys monitoring equipment and field teams prior to launch of a radioisotope power system.
- In the unlikely event of an accident, this team would assess if and how much radioactive material was released, as well as possible location, in order to prepare recommendations for protective action if needed.
- The State of Florida and county and local governments would determine an appropriate course of action (such as sheltering in place, avoiding land areas, or no action required), if a release of radioactive material occurred outside federal property.

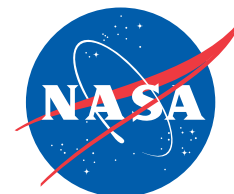
**Mars 2020 Launch Window Opens:  
July 17, 2020**

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

**Landing at Jezero Crater  
Feb 18, 2021**



Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) launch – November 2011



# Mars 2020 Draft SEIS Public Meeting

If you are logged in to the virtual meeting on 15 November 2019, please enter your comments in the “Q&A” window



LAUNCH

CRUISE TO MARS

ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING

SURFACE MISSION ON MARS

Comments may also be submitted until December 10, 2019 via

Email: [mars2020-nepa@lists.nasa.gov](mailto:mars2020-nepa@lists.nasa.gov)

Recorded phone message: 202-358-0016

Postal mail: Mr. George Tahu, Planetary Science Division  
Science Mission Directorate, Mail Suite 3E46,  
NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546-0001