

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# EXPLORE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

**2021 SmallSat Conference**

Nicole Rayl

SMD Chief Technologist (Acting)

# Near-Term Crosscutting Technologies

<b>SmallSats</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. APD: SmallSat/CubeSat Platforms</li><li>2. BPS: Deep space automated SmallSats capability</li><li>3. HPD: Means to de-orbit SmallSats</li><li>4. PSD: ESPA Class Electric Propulsion, Aerocapture demonstration using SmallSats</li></ol>
<b>Autonomy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. BPS: AI/ML Technology for Automated Payloads to Conduct Science Experiments in Deep Space</li><li>2. ESD: Advanced Radiation-hardened electronics for onboard computing (including CPU, memory and ancillary processors such as for AI/ML)</li><li>3. HPD: Autonomy/smart onboard processing</li><li>4. PSD: Terrain relative navigation, precision landing, hazard avoidance</li></ol>
<b>Quantum</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. BPS: Free Space Atom Interferometer</li><li>2. ESD: Quantum Sensing</li></ol>
<b>In-Space Service/ Assembly</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. APD: iSAT, Starshade</li><li>2. ESD: OSAM, Synergistic Fractionated Mission Capability, deployable antennas</li></ol>

**\*These are the top near-term crosscutting themes; there are numerous additional priorities across all SMD Divisions that were omitted for this planning exercise**



# SmallSats

- All divisions within SMD are engaged in planning for SmallSat missions
- Expecting more SmallSat goals from upcoming decadal
- Actively coordinating with STMD on SMD science needs and technology priorities
- Risk reduction approach for larger missions
- Pivot to SmallSat missions when science goals can be achieved for less on a faster timeline
- Challenge of “right sizing” NASA development effort vs. adopting emergent commercial capabilities