

**REMARKS FOR ADMINISTRATOR BOLDEN**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2013 NASA BUDGET ROLLOUT**

**Feb. 13, 2012**

- It's my privilege to share NASA's FY2013 budget -- a \$17.7 billion dollar blueprint for NASA and the nation to embark on an ambitious plan of space exploration that will take us farther into the solar system than we have ever gone before.
- Despite a constrained fiscal environment, this budget continues to aggressively implement the space exploration program agreed to by the President and a bipartisan majority in Congress . . . laying the foundation for remarkable discoveries here on Earth and in deep space.
- While reaching for new heights in space, we're creating new jobs right here on Earth, helping to support an economy that's built to last.

- We're developing new capacities for exploration, new ways of doing business and creating a bright future driven by aviation and space technology breakthroughs and missions to places we've never been, including an asteroid and Mars.
- The time for debate about our future is over. We have a solid plan, a sustainable plan, and we're moving out to implement it . . . opening the next great chapter of American exploration.
- There's no doubt that tough decisions had to be made, here at NASA and all across government. However, ours is a stable budget that allows us to support a diverse portfolio of human exploration, technology development, science, aeronautics, and education work.

- This budget continues the work we started last year with bipartisan support of the Congress and approval of the President.
- We've made steady and tangible progress on the next-generation deep space crew capsule and our new heavy lift rocket that will launch astronauts on journeys to destinations farther in our solar system. This priority is funded in this budget.
- Already we've been doing test firings of the J-2X engine that will power the heavy lift's upper stage. Orion has undergone water drop tests for its eventual ocean landings. Funding is included in this budget to keep this important work going.

- We've continued to maintain an American presence in space onboard the International Space Station, our orbiting laboratory where we learn more about human health and demonstrate technologies, like those we'll need for bolder missions in the future.
- This budget funds our work on Station, while supporting jobs right here on earth. As a former astronaut and head of the world's most successful space agency, I am committed to launching astronauts from American soil, on spacecraft built by American companies.
- This year we'll have the first ever launch and berthing of a spacecraft by a private company. That is a critical and historic milestone. Just last week we issued an announcement for proposals for the next round of commercial crew acquisition activities.

- This budget provides the funding needed to bring our human space launches back home to the U.S. and get American companies transporting our astronauts once again.
- Some of these are the same American companies on whom we're depending to build the biggest rocket this nation has ever produced to go deeper into space to destinations like an asteroid, back to the Moon, and on to Mars.
- Among them are the American companies on whom we're depending to build the state-of-the art crew capsule that will carry U.S. astronauts farther than anyone has ever gone before.
- We just concluded our latest call for astronauts, which drew a near-record number of applicants. The 2013 class will join

the class of 2009 that just graduated and is even now training for the missions of the future.

- These are the first space travelers that could, one day, reach an asteroid and they will pioneer the path for future astronauts to set foot on Mars.
- Space Technology is generating the ideas and the actual innovations that will take us farther; ideas such as solar-electric propulsion, lightweight cryogenic propellant tanks.
- These cutting edge ideas are all supported in this budget that builds on the work we've already been doing.
- Last year we provided 80 space technology research fellowships to graduate students to complete their studies

and join us in tomorrow's missions. Continuation of that important initiative is funded in this budget.

- With this budget we continue to refine and demonstrate technologies that will increase our nation's capabilities.
- This budget provides for more of the type of projects like the three technology demonstration mission proposals we selected this past year to transform space laser communications, deep space navigation using atomic clocks, and in-space propulsion capabilities, including solar sails.
- We do many things in space; spending U.S. tax dollars is not one of them. Every dollar spent on space exploration is spent right here on Earth.

- This budget in-sources jobs, creates capabilities here at home – and strengthens our workforce.
- The rapid pace of scientific discoveries from NASA missions continues.
- This year we will land *Curiosity*, the largest rover ever, on Mars and continue to develop and conduct critical tests on the James Webb Space Telescope leading to its planned launch in 2018. As the successor to Hubble Space Telescope, the Webb telescope will again revolutionize our understanding of the universe.
- This budget supports more than 80 science missions – 56 currently in operation and 28 now under development - that cover the vital data we need to understand our own planet; diverse missions reaching farther into our solar system; and the next generation of observatories peering beyond the



reaches of our neighborhood to other galaxies and their solar systems and undiscovered phenomena.

- However, tough choices had to be made.
- This means we will not be moving forward with the planned 2016 and 2018 ExoMars missions that we had been exploring with the European Space Agency. Instead, we will develop an integrated strategy to ensure that the next steps for Mars exploration will support science as well as human exploration goals, and potentially take advantage of the 2018-2020 exploration window.
- The budget provides support for this new approach, and this process will be informed by extensive coordination with the science community and our international partners.

- This Administration remains committed to a vibrant and coordinated strategy of Mars exploration and continuing America's leadership role in the exploration of the Red Planet within the available budget.
- Our goals include not only new path-breaking robotic missions to Mars, but also future human missions, as outlined by the President.
- I have tasked the head of the Science Mission Directorate, Dr. John Grunsfeld; the head of Human Exploration, Bill Gerstenmaier; our Chief Technologist, Dr. Mason Peck; and our Chief Scientist, Dr. Waleed Abdalatti, with crafting an integrated Mars strategy – one that will ensure that the next steps for the Robotic Mars Exploration Program will support science as well as long-term human exploration goals.

- The missions currently at Mars, the Mars Science Laboratory on its way, and *MAVEN* well into development, will provide many years of data to help us understand the Red Planet and our needs in future years to meet the President's challenge to send humans to Mars in the mid-2030s.
- In aeronautics, our investments are driving technology breakthroughs for cleaner, safer, and more efficient aircraft.
- The millions of flyers around the world will benefit from our work and our partnership with the greater aviation community to transform our air travel system.
- One of my greatest pleasures is to talk to young people and answer their questions about what it's like to go to space and how they can pursue a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

- In this budget, we focus on education programs with measurable return. This will help us feed that pipeline we so urgently need of new scientists and engineers to share their energies, passions, and great intelligence with us.
- I'm very optimistic about our future and our next generation of exploration leaders.
- The missions we begin now, the technologies we create, and the discoveries we make are all going to inspire them and help us sustain an American economy built to last.
- This budget is about American innovation and American ingenuity. It's about keeping the U.S. the world leader in space exploration and showcasing our knack for solving problems and improving life here on Earth.

- We're ready to work; ready to be surprised not only by what we discover, but by how much we can accomplish when we work together as one nation – proud and energized by a space program that is reaching higher and unfolding the future today.
- Now let me turn the podium over to my Chief Financial Officer, Dr. Beth Robinson to brief the details of fiscal year 2013 Budget Proposal.