



NASA SMD Rideshare Office SmallSat 2023 Townhall August 7, 2023

Alan Zide– NASA SMD Heliophysics
Program Executive





Agenda

1. SMD Rideshare Office Intro & Policy
2. Access to Space Options
3. RS Lessons Learned, Successes, & Challenges

The background of the slide is a composite image of space. On the left, a large, curved, light blue shape frames a view of Earth from space, showing a sunset or sunrise over the horizon. In the center, the Moon is visible, with a satellite orbiting it. To the right, another satellite is shown in orbit. The sky is dark with stars and a red ring of light. The overall theme is space exploration and satellite technology.

NASA Science Mission Directorate Rideshare Office

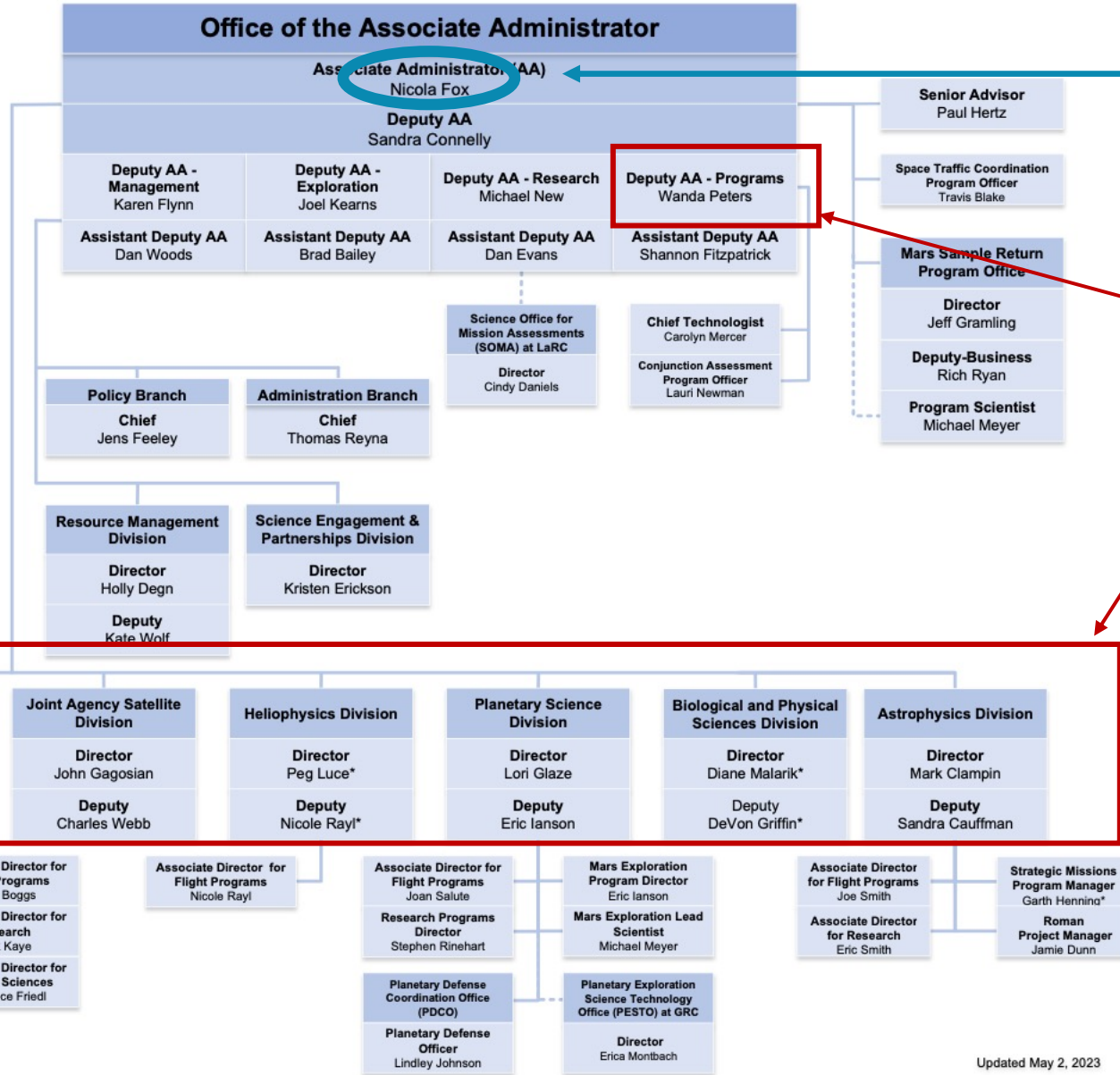
- The Science Mission Directorate has a rideshare policy and an established the SMD Rideshare Office (SRO) to develop and maintain standard rideshare processes for the NASA SMD.
- SPD-32 Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) Secondary Payload Adapter (ESPA) Secondary Payloads Rideshare
 - Baseline policy signed Oct. 2018; Policy updated January 2021 (Rev 2); Rev 3 expected EOY 2023
 - SMD policy enables rideshare or launch accommodation opportunities using an ESPA-type ring integrated on the launch service procured for an SMD primary payload **with identified excess performance**.
 - SMD may offer any excess capacity not utilized for SMD investigations to other NASA Mission Directorates (MD), other U.S. Government Agencies, or NASA's International partners in accordance with international agreements for international collaborative efforts relating to science, technology, and exploration goals.
 - *** This policy only applies to SPA-class and independent Cubesat missions on secondary ports (not Cubesats which are managed and launched through the NASA LSP CubeSat Launch Initiative-CSLI).*

NASA HQ Science Mission Directorate Rideshare Office (RSO) Organization

NEW SMD AA,
Nicola Fox,



- Embeds / POCs**
- Chief Engineer:**
Nick Jedrich
 - Deputy Chief Engineer:**
Synthia Tonn
 - Safety & Mission Assurance:**
Ariel Pavlick/Glen Lockwood
 - General Counsel:**
Erik Lundin
 - Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs:**
Andrew Rowe
 - International & Interagency Relations:**
Gib Kirkham
 - Communications:**
Karen Fox
 - Procurement:**
Jerry Edmond



SMD Rideshare Office
Lead: Aly-Mendoza-Hill

- Nicky Fox
- Peg Luce
- Alan Zide (PT)
- David Cheney (PT)

Reports to DAAP

Supports all SMD Divisions and Missions

Florence Tan
Deputy Chief Technologist,
SSCG Chair

NASA Centers
ARC, GSFC, LaRC,
MSFC, KSC, JPL
etc.

Launch Services Program
Space Operations Mission Directorate

Updated May 2, 2023

2. Access to Space Launch Options

NASA SmallSat Access to Space Options

Launch Options:

- Utilize excess performance on NASA SMD Primary launches => RS Policy
- For NASA Science-unique orbits => VADR
 - Promote expansion of commercial launch options for SmallSats with higher risk tolerance
- Partnering with government and commercial providers for increased opportunities

RS on NASA SMD
Primary NLS-II
Mission

- Class A-D
- Low risk tolerant full spacecraft missions
- Full LSP technical oversight
- Dedicated launches can add rideshare if excess performance

VADR

- Class D and higher risk tolerant full spacecraft missions including CubeSats
- Limited LSP technical insight
- Dedicated launches or rideshare opportunities on commercial FAA licensed launches

RS on OGA Launches

- Rideshare opportunities for free flying spacecraft on DoD procured launches coordinated through the SMD Rideshare Office

3. NASA Rideshare Example

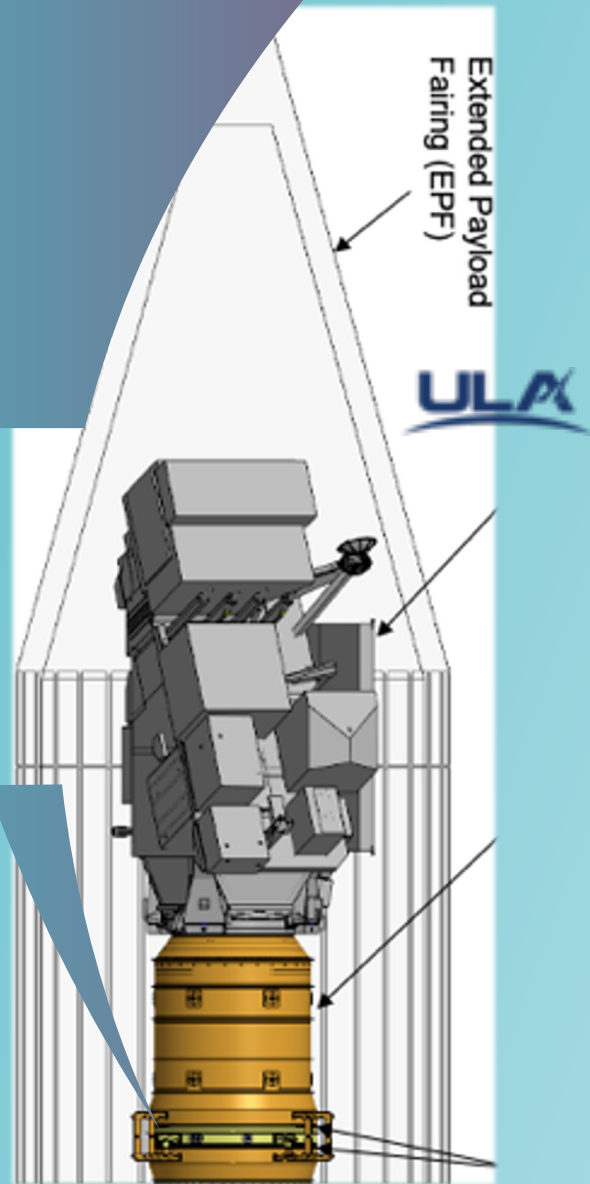
SMD Primary NLS-II Rideshare Examples

Majority of excess performance utilized

JPSS-2

- Joint Agency Satellite Division
- LV: AtlasV-401
- ULA C-Adapters
- Rideshare Payloads:
 - LOFTID

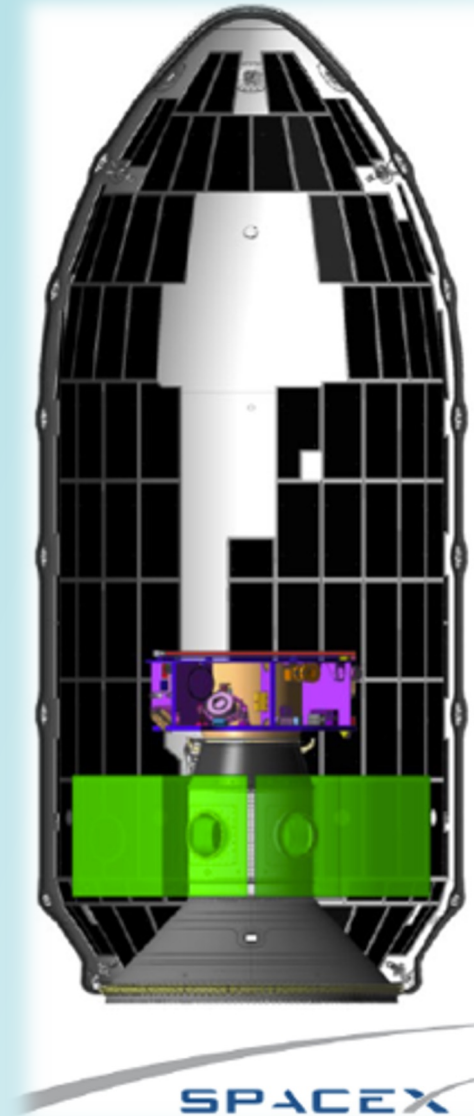
LAUNCHED 11/10/2022



IMAP

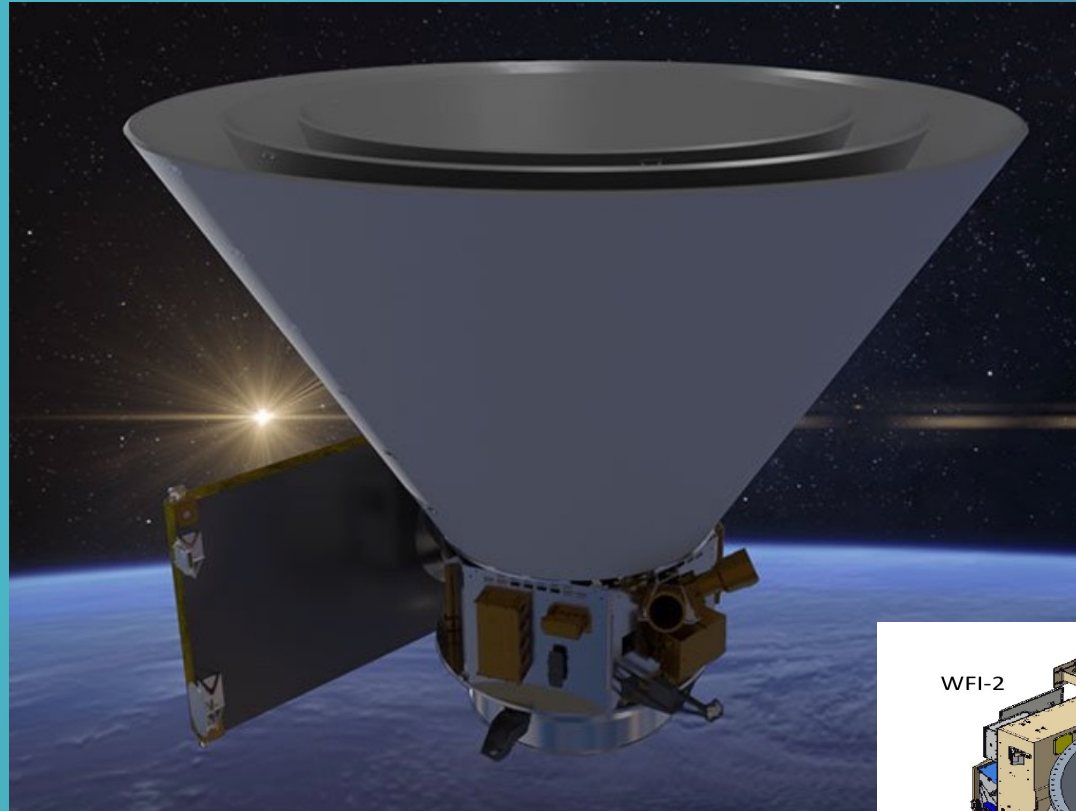
- Heliophysics Division
- LV: Falcon
- ESPA Grande
- Rideshare Payloads:
 - SWFO L1
 - HPD Carruthers Geocorona Observatory

LRD 2/1/2025



Images not to exact scale

SMD Primary NLS-II Rideshare Examples - continued



Images not to scale

SPHEREx

-Astrophysics Division

-LV: Falcon 9

-ESPA Grande

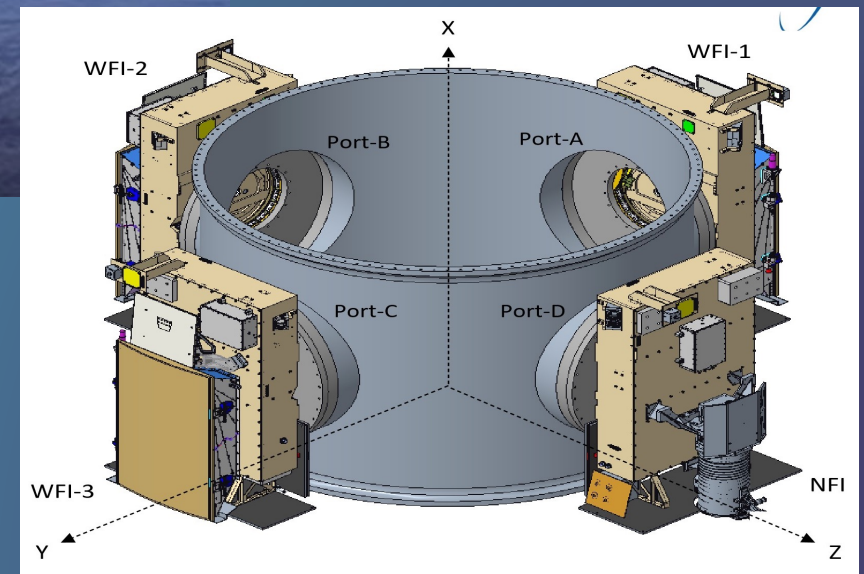
-Rideshare Payload:

-PUNCH

-Heliophysics Division

-4 Spacecraft

LRD 2/28/2025



NASA SHORT TALKS

Tuesday, August 8

3:30 – 4:30PM MT

Fieldhouse Stage

Overview of NASA's Science Mission Directorate Small Satellite Activities

Florence W. Tan, Science Mission Directorate

Class D SmallSat Mission Acquisition Considerations

Alan J. Zide, Science Mission Directorate Explorers Program

CubeSat Launch Initiative Update - Lessons Learned

Norman L. Phelps, Launch Services Program

NASA MEET a PE-PM

Sessions held at the NASA Exhibit Lounge

Access to Space and Conjunction Assessment

Monday, August 7, 3:30 – 4:30PM MT

- Norman Phelps, Launch Service Program, CSLI/ELaNa Lead
- Lauri Newman, Program Officer, Conjunction Assessment and Mitigation
- Danielle McCulloch, Program Manager, Flight Opportunities Program

NASA Science

Tuesday, August 8, 9:45AM – 10:45AM

- David Cheney, Program Executive, Heliophysics Division
- Alan Zide, Program Executive, Heliophysics Division
- Rachele Cocks, Program Executive, Astrophysics Division
- Florence Tan, Deputy Chief Technologist, Science Mission Directorate

NASA Project Management

Wednesday, August 9, 9:45AM – 10:45AM

- John Hudeck, Deputy Chief, Small Satellite and Special Projects Office
- Tom Johnson, Project Manager, Astrophysics and Heliophysics

Portfolios

NASA Mission / Project Management

Thursday, August 10, 9:45AM – 10:45AM

- Matthew Napoli, Project Manager, BioSentinel
- Samuel Pedrotty, Project Manager, R5
- Elwood Agasid, Project Manager, CAPSTONE

NASA HQ Science Mission Directorate Rideshare Office (SRO)

For SMD Rideshare inquiries, contact us at:
HQ-SMD-Rideshare@mail.nasa.gov

Aly
Mendoza-Hill

Alan
Zide

David
Cheney

Katie
Nelson



Current Opportunities & S3VI Resources:

- **NASA Launch Portal:**
<https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute/launchportal>
- **Upcoming SmallSat Mission solicitations:**
<https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute/nasa-smallsat-opportunities>
- **NASA SMD Rideshare Guide:**
https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/smd_spa_rug_with_dnh_generic_2021dec15.pdf

BACKUP

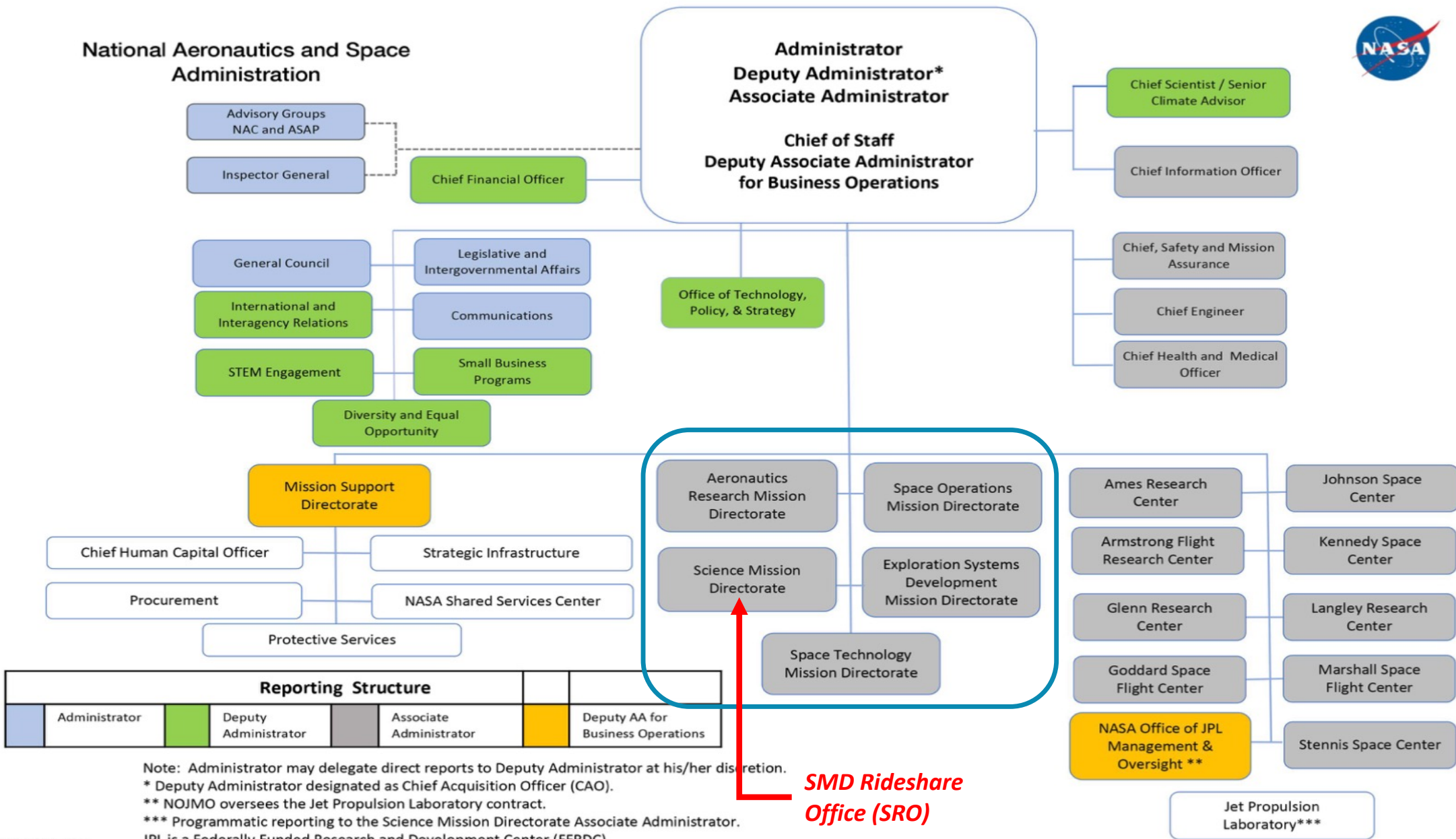


NASA SMD Rideshare Office (SRO)

- **Goal:** To provide a single POC for SMD Rideshare-related inquiries for both NASA Center and external partners; to maintain overall knowledge and tracking of Rideshare activities for SMD missions, and to ensure best utilization of excess LV performance to obtain maximum science on SMD missions
- Located within the Heliophysics Division
 - Supports **ALL** SMD Divisions
 - Aly Mendoza-Hill is the Rideshare Lead for SMD
 - Other key SMD Rideshare Team Members: Alan Zide, David Cheney, Pete Wilczynski, Florence Tan, & Katie Nelson
 - Works closely with the Launch Services Program at Kennedy Space Center
 - Works with NASA Center Rideshare POCs to create unified NASA/SMD Rideshare message; delegates tasks to appropriate Center POCs as required; does not replace Center-level Rideshare Payload development work
- Developing a robust rideshare program to utilize excess mass to orbit and enable additional launch opportunities for the science community
 - Standardized Announcement of Opportunity (AO) language and reviewing each AO for consistency
 - Developed key documents: SMD RS101, SMD RUG & DNH requirements, & the internal SMD RS Implementation Guide
 - Performing top-level payload compatibility analyses of rideshare missions to identify potential impacts to the primary payload or the success of the secondaries
 - Maintaining a list of SMD launch opportunities and tracking potential external launch opportunities
 - External information is made available on the Small Spacecraft Systems Virtual Institute (S3VI) website (NASA Launch Portal - <https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute>)



National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Reporting Structure					
Administrator	Deputy Administrator	Associate Administrator		Deputy AA for Business Operations	

Note: Administrator may delegate direct reports to Deputy Administrator at his/her discretion.
 * Deputy Administrator designated as Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO).
 ** NOJMO oversees the Jet Propulsion Laboratory contract.
 *** Programmatic reporting to the Science Mission Directorate Associate Administrator.
 JPL is a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC).

SMD Rideshare Office (SRO)



NASA HQ Mission Directorates

To implement **NASA's Mission**, NASA Headquarters is organized into five principal organizations called **Mission Directorates**:

- **Aeronautics**: Pioneers and proves new flight technologies that improve our ability to explore and which have practical applications on Earth.
- **Exploration Systems Development**: Development programs for deep space exploration, including **Artemis** missions.
- **Space Operations**: Space operations in low-Earth orbit.
- **Science**: Explores the Earth, moon, Mars, and beyond; charts the best route of discovery; and reaps the benefits of Earth and space exploration for society.
- **Space Technology**: A catalyst for the creation of technologies and innovation needed to maintain NASA leadership in space while also benefiting America's economy.
- **Mission Support**: Oversees the management of the institutional functional areas that support the Agency mission.

The background of the slide is a composite image of space. On the left, a large, curved, teal-colored shape frames a view of Earth from space, showing a sunset or sunrise over the horizon. Several satellites are depicted in orbit around Earth. In the upper right, the Moon is visible against a starry background. A bright orange arc, possibly representing a satellite's path or a specific orbit, curves across the top of the image. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, oranges, and teals.

Is Rideshare the solution for all SmallSats?

- Rideshare is the method of getting additional payloads to orbit by **connecting them with** a primary payload, a **pre-established launch**, that has excess performance capabilities.
- Rideshare is akin to using city bus system to get to the office;
 - the bus has specific rules for the passengers,
 - the routes/timelines are planned years in advance, and
 - you may still have an extended walk to your actual destination
- If you aren't flexible enough to match up with a Primary's launch parameters, then Rideshare is not for you!

The Rideshare "Balance"

**SC flexibility
to meet
Primary
Launch
Parameters**



**Minimized
Launch
Costs**

Does not
mean
"free"