National Aeronautics and Space Administration



NASA Space Technology Mission Directorate Technology Needs

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www.nasa.gov/spacetech

# Why Invest in Space Technology?



...need for regular investment in new, transformative space technologies...



... from 40+ studies since 1980...

- Enable **new class of NASA missions** beyond LEO
- Provide **innovative solutions** to dramatically improve technological capabilities **for NASA and the Nation**.
- Develop **affordable & raliable** technologies & capabilities for future NASA missions
- Create **new markets**, spurring innovation for traditional and emerging aerospace business
- Engages the brightest minds from **academia** to solve NASA's tough technological challenges

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

## Guiding Principles of the Space Technology Programs



- Adheres to a Stakeholder Based Investment Strategy (NRC/SSTIP/TAs)
- Invests in a Comprehensive Portfolio: (full TRL range)
- Advances Transformative and Crosscutting Technologies
- Selects Using Merit Based Competition (open to everybody)
- Executes with Structured Projects (cost/schedule/oversight/NPRs)
- Infuses Rapidly or Fails Fast (informed risk)
- Positions NASA at the cutting edge of technology (innovation pipeline)







### **Space Technology Portfolio**







Game Changing Development (ETD/CSTD)



Technology Demonstration Missions (ETD/CSTD)



Small Spacecraft Technologies (CSTD)



Space Technology Research Grant (CSTD)



NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) (CSTD)



Center Innovation Fund (CSTD)



Centennial Challenges (CSTD)



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



Flight Opportunities Program (CSTD)

## **Space Technology Portfolio**





## FY2014 Big Nine



Human

Missions

Science

Missions



Increases space-based broadband, delivering data rates 10-to-100 times faster than today's systems, addressing the demands of future missions.

This tiny atomic clock is 10-times more accurate than today's ground-based navigation system enabling precise, in-space

This solar sail has an area 7 times larger than ever flown in space, enabling propellant free propulsion and next generation space weather systems.

TDM

Demonstrates new parachutes and inflatable braking systems at supersonic velocities enabling precise landing of large payloads on planetary surfaces.

> TDN & GCE

& Human-Robotic Systems

Human Exploration Telerobotics

**Develops** and demonstrates green propellants, thus provides an alternative to highly corrosive and toxic hydrazine; consequently expanding the capabilities of small spacecraft systems.

Developing advanced systems capable of remotely operating robots to assist in future exploration; maturing new robots capable of assisting humans in routine and tedious work.

Summunum C SHIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII Develops large-scale solar array panels and deployment mechanisms. Critical step on the development path to a high-power solar electric propulsion system.

Demonstrating large composite, light weight fuel tanks that can reduce the mass and cost of the next generation SLS.

Solar Electric Propulsion

TDN

& GCI



### **STMD** support for SMD Astrophysics



- NASA Innovative Advanced
  Concepts
- <u>Space Technology Research</u> <u>Grants</u>
- Game Changing Development
  - NICER/SEXTANT
  - <u>Adjustable Grazing Incidence X-ray</u>
    <u>Optics with 0.5 arc second resolution</u>
  - <u>Advanced laser frequency</u> <u>stabilization using molecular gases</u>
- Technology Demonstration Missions
  - Solar Sail
- Future Collaborations
  - Exo-planet Spectroscopy
    - Internal coronagraphs and external occulters
  - Atomic Interferometer





NICER X-ray Mirror



Optical cavity by Ball Aerospace



Evaluating current STMD investments as recommended by the Strategic Space Technology Investment Plan (SSTIP, NRC, other Stakeholders)

- Initial evaluation is consistent with the SSTIP Core, Adjacent, and Complementary recommendations
- Approximately 72% of investments are in Core areas
- STMD has investments in all 14 TAs (Technology Areas)
- Approximately 10% of investments are low TRL (1-3) consistent with the recommendation by the National Research Council (NRC) Final Report on Space Technology Roadmaps and Priorities



STMD investments are consistent with the Strategic Space Technology Investment Plan (SSTIP)

### **STMD Funding / Announcement Opportunities**



TRL

- STMD Programs are periodically release solicitations
- These are open to all (NASA, OGAs, Academia, Industry)
- More information can be found at the STMD website or NSPIRES
  - <u>http://www.nasa.gov/spacetech/</u>

Typical cadence for relevant solicitations (function of funding availability)

- SBIR: FY Q1
- Space Technology Research Grants:
  - Space Technology Research Fellowships: FY Q1
  - Early Career Faculty: FY Q1
  - Early Stage Innovation: FY Q2
- NIAC:
  - Phase 1: FY Q1
  - Phase 2: FY Q2
- Center Innovation Funds: FY Q1
- Game Changing Development Program: FY Q1-FYQ3 in focused topics
  - Lightweight Materials and advanced Manufacturing
  - Future Propulsion and Energy Systems
  - Affordable Destination Systems and Instruments
  - Advanced Entry, Descent and Landing
  - Revolutionary Robotics and Autonomous Systems



## Space Technology Major Events & Milestones



# Working Together to Innovate

















http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsvisuLauSc

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

www.nasa.gov/spacetech



# L'Garde Solar Sail 101





# Solar Sail Mission Overview



### **Demonstration Objectives**

- 1. Demonstrate segmented deployment of a solar sail
- 2. Demonstrate attitude control plus passive stability and trim using beam-tip vanes.
- 3. Execute a navigation sequence with mission-capable accuracy.
- 4. Fly to and Possibly Maintain Position at sub-L1 and/or Pole Sitter Positions

#### Access to Space:

Manifested as Secondary on DSCOVR Launch to L1 (F9 1.1 in Q4 2014)







Notional Trajectory After Earth Escape Burn

erth's orbit

Sail Deployment Simulation



## NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts and Astrophysics – 2 Examples



#### • OCCAMS Advanced Membrane Active Mirrors Goal: Develop membrane mirrors able to deform at a

molecular level, allowing huge, self-focusing mirrors

- Low cost of manufacture, exceptionally light,
- Active at the molecular level, back side of polymer chain expands when hit with a certain wavelength of LASER light, allowing on-orbit tuning of shape
- 1 Lb. Mass for 2.4M (Hubble-sized) primary, could go much larger
- \$10k in materials cost for 2.4M primary

### • HOMES: Holographic Optical Method for Exoplanet Spectroscopy

Goal: Develop a preliminary architecture of a thin-film Holographic telescope able to analyze Exoplanet Spectroscopy

- Replaces large heavy mirror optics with gossamer holograms
- Holographic dispersion allows multiple spectrometer sensors, each tuned to a different wavelength, allowing faint signals to be readable
- Potentially enables detection of habitable planets up to 30 light years away
   Return to STMD Support for SMD Missions





### **Space Technology Research Grants Program Astrophysics-Related Awards**



Recent (January 2013) Early Stage Innovations Awards:



- Wavefront Control for High Performance Coronagraphy on Segmented and Centrally Obscured Telescopes: Olivier Guyon, University of Arizona
- Goal: to develop and demonstrate an accurate and efficient approach to measure fine cophasing errors in support of future high contrast imaging missions. This work is critical to understand how future large space telescopes can directly image and

Integrated Control Electronics for Adjustable X-Ray Optics: Susan Trolier-McKinstry, Pennsylvania State Universitv



Goal: to enable increased angular resolution and collection areas for future major X-ray observatories by incorporating improved figure control of the mirror surfaces. This project will utilize thin film electro-mechanical actuators that allow the mirror surfaces to be adjusted after fabrication.

NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship Awards

study habitable planets around nearby stars.



- NSTRF11: 6
- NSTRF12: 6
- **NSTRF13:9**

Significance of an NSTRF11 Award

The detector array will observe the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) polarization with unprecedented sensitivity on arcminute angular scales. This research is pushing the state of the art for far-infrared background limited detectors and will enable an improved understanding of how to use these devices in practical environments, which can potentially lower the risk of use in planned space- and balloon-borne scientific applications by NASA.

- Astrophysics subtopic included in 2013 Early Stage Innovations solicitation
  - Optical Coatings and Thin-film Physics (http://tinyurl.com/NASA-13ESI)

#### Return to STMD Support for SMD Missions

### NICER / SEXTANT



### • NICER/SEXTANT – explorer class ISS demo (2017)

Joint Science and Technology Demo Mission on ISS

 NICER: X-ray optical telescope demonstration
 Neutron star Interior Composition ExploreR (NICER), would observe (in the X-ray band) the thermal, magnetic, and rotational traits of neutron stars







### SEXTANT: X-ray navigation (XNAV) demonstration

Station Experiment for X-ray Timing and Navigation Technology (SEXTANT) mission, would detect X-ray photons from known steady pulsars to demonstrate spacecraft navigation using these naturally-occurring cosmic beacons

#### • STMD-SMD collaboration

- NICER by SMD / SEXTANT by STMD
- Shared hardware, ConOps, Data archive, Ops Center; ISS Platform, and target pulsars

### STMD/GCD - SMD/Astrophysics Collaborations



#### Adjustable Grazing Incidence X-ray Optics

Goal: Develop thin, lightweight mirrors with angular resolution of 0.5 arc sec, comparable to the Chandra X-ray Observatory

- Low cost; and 30x more densely nested than Chandra
- New design with thin segments of a Wolter-I grazing incidence mirror
- Piezo-electric material deposited directly on the back surface
- Localized mirror deformation by energized PZT cells; no need for reaction structure
- Co-funded 3-years development between GCD & Astrophysics/PCOS

#### Advanced laser frequency stabilization using molecular gases

Goal: Develop a laser stabilization scheme approaching the performance of ultra-cold neutral atom clocks

- Simpler, lighter, and cheaper packaging, and operates at lower power levels
- Operates near 1568 nm using low pressure CO gas as a molecular reference, with the possibility of migrating to near 1064 nm at a later date
- Ultra-stable lasers are a corner stone of a future gravitational wave mission
- Co-funded 3-years development between GCD & Astrophysics/PCOS



100 mm diameter flat Eagle test mirror (PZT electrode cells, printed electrode contacts, and strain gauge patterns, used for diagnostics).



Iodine laser stabilization setup and cavity

#### Return to STMD Support for SMD Missions

### Coronagraph for Direct Imaging of Exoplanets



Potential Joint SMD & STMD Initiative: Develop a coronagraph for AFTA-WFIRST mission

- SoA Space based observatories:
  - NASA's Kepler (2009) (Photometry);
  - NASA Hubble & Spitzer (Transit technique);
  - TESS (2017 launch planned)(transit spectroscopy)



1000+ exoplanets discovered to date; Milky Way has 50B+ potentially habitable rocky-planets.

- Goal: Develop an advanced high contrast coronagraph + occulter for AFTA-WFIRST
  - Observe fainter planets using advanced direct imaging (10x Earth mass or better)
  - High contrast, high sensitivity, & high optical throughput
  - Small inner working angle (close to star), large discovery space
  - AFTA-WFIRST concept: using a donated 2.4-m telescope;
    - > First opportunity for an in-space high contrast coronagraph.
    - Pathfinder mission for future telescopes to characterize Earthlike planets.

### New Hardware in Advancing Space Technology





**Green Propellant 22N** Thruster



**Regolith Advanced** Surface Systems **Operations Robot** (RASSOR)



**Deep Space** Atomic Clock



Low Density Supersonic **Decelerator Proof Test** 



**MSL Heat Shield with** Instrumentation



**BIRD Focal Plane Arrays** 









Solar Sail and Boom Fab



Woven TPS



Inflatable **Re-entry** Vehicle Experiment



Additive Manufacturing



NICER/SEXTANT

## **Game Changing Technology**





Arrival and testing of 2.4m precursor tank, the largest out-ofautoclave tank fabricated in the world



Space Power Systems First build of flightlike fuel cells



SWORDS model for wind tunnel testing at NASA MSFC



Launch of IRVE-3 – successful suborbital test of 3m HIAD



**DSOC: Vibration Isolation Platform** 



Nuclear Systems delivered the Fission Power System Technology Demonstration Unit (TDU) Reactor Simulator

## **Technology Demonstration and Testing**





Mike Fossum with Smart SPHERES checkout



Laser Communication Relay Demonstration



Reduced Liquid Hydrogen boil off test



**ARC Jet Testing** 



K10 rover deploying polyimide film



Low Density Supersonic Decelerator Sled Test



LCAT Stagnation Test (50 W/cm2)



Deep Space Atomic Clock



MSL Launch and MEDLI measurements successfully completed

### **Collaborations with Other Government Agencies**



#### Currently, significant engagements include:

- Green Propellant Infusion Mission partnership with Air Force Research Laboratory, propellant and rideshare with DoD's Space Test Program (STP)
- Solar Sail Demonstration partnership with NOAA, and rideshare with Air Force
- Soldier-Warfighter Operationally Responsive Deployer for Space (SWORDS) low-cost nano-launch system with Army
- UAS Airspace Operations Prize Challenge coordinated with FAA
- Working with the USAF Operationally Responsive Space Office (ORS) for launch accommodations for the Edison Demonstration of Smallsat Networks (EDSN) mission.
- Partnership for Ohio's first hydrogen generating fueling station with Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to power city bus
- Partnership with DARPA on "Next Generation Humanoid for Disaster Response"
- In discussion with Department of Veteran Affairs for a collaborative project with "Exoskeleton" from our Human Robotics Systems Program















## **Challenges for Deep Space Exploration**





### **Trends in Space Technology**











• LAUNCH PROPULSION SYSTEMS



• IN-SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES



• SPACE POWER & ENERGY STORAGE



• ROBOTICS, TELE-ROBOTICS & Autonomous systems



• COMMUNICATION & NAVIGATION



• HUMAN HEALTH, LIFE SUPPORT & HABITATION SYSTEMS



• HUMAN EXPLORATION DESTINA-TION SYSTEMS



• SCIENCE INSTRUMENTS, OBSERVATORIES & SENSOR SYSTEMS



• ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING SYSTEMS



• NANOTECHNOLOGY



• MODELING, SIMULATION, INFORMA-TION TECHNOLOGY & PROCESSING



• MATERIALS, STRUCTURES, MECHAN-ICAL SYSTEMS & MANUFACTURING



• GROUND & LAUNCH SYSTEMS Processing



• THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

### New Hardware in Advancing Space Technology





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