



AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Enhancing and sharing humanity's scientific understanding of the universe since 1899.

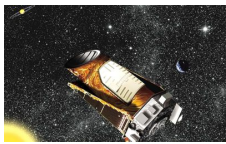
NASA, SDO

Decadal Surveys

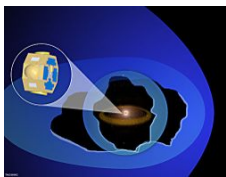


Each decade, the entire community comes together to set priorities for scientific studies in the decade ahead. Each of the recent decadal surveys recommend **balanced portfolios of large, medium and small projects** as their highest priority, with **robust investment** in each so all can participate in astronomical discoveries. For the U.S. to continue leading the world in the astronomical sciences, we need **revolutionary new flagship projects** in space and on the ground, but we must also maintain support for the **competed research grants** and highly cost-effective **small and mid-scale competed missions**.

Small & Mid-Scale Projects

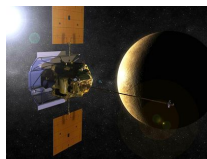


Kepler has opened our eyes to the billions of potentially habitable planets in our Milky Way galaxy.



IBEX is helping us to better understand our place in the galaxy.

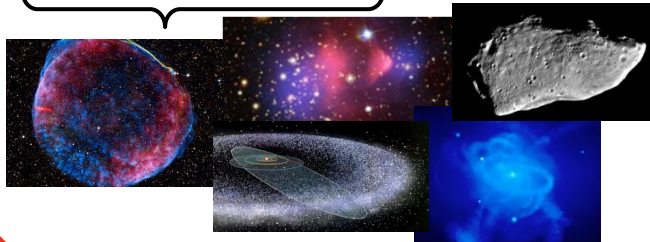
Discovery, New Frontiers, and Explorer class missions are revolutionizing our view of the entire universe, from our own solar system to the most distant galaxies. These competed programs broaden participation in space sciences, encourage innovation, and deliver high scientific and technological return on federal investment.



MESSENGER is providing new insights on the inner solar system.

Revolutionary Flagships

Exciting new projects like the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), a top decadal survey priority, will revolutionize our understanding of the cosmos, from asteroids to the largest structures in the universe, and drive technological innovations with potential commercial applications.



Education & Public Outreach

NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program (NITARP) Educator Jacqueline Barge works on original astronomical research with her high school students.



Large crowds gathered in Times Square, and many other locations, to celebrate the NASA Curiosity Rover's successful landing on Mars.



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Competition Grants

Competition grants are awarded to researchers based on the **merit and breadth of impact** of the proposed scientific research. The suite of astronomical science grant programs at NASA, NSF and DOE Office of Science **award research dollars to scientists and students throughout the country**. Many researchers depend on these programs for their salaries and research expenses.

NASA, JPL-Caltech, MSSS, Mastcam