



# NASA's Space Launch System: An Enabling Capability for Discovery

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**Space Launch System (SLS) Program**

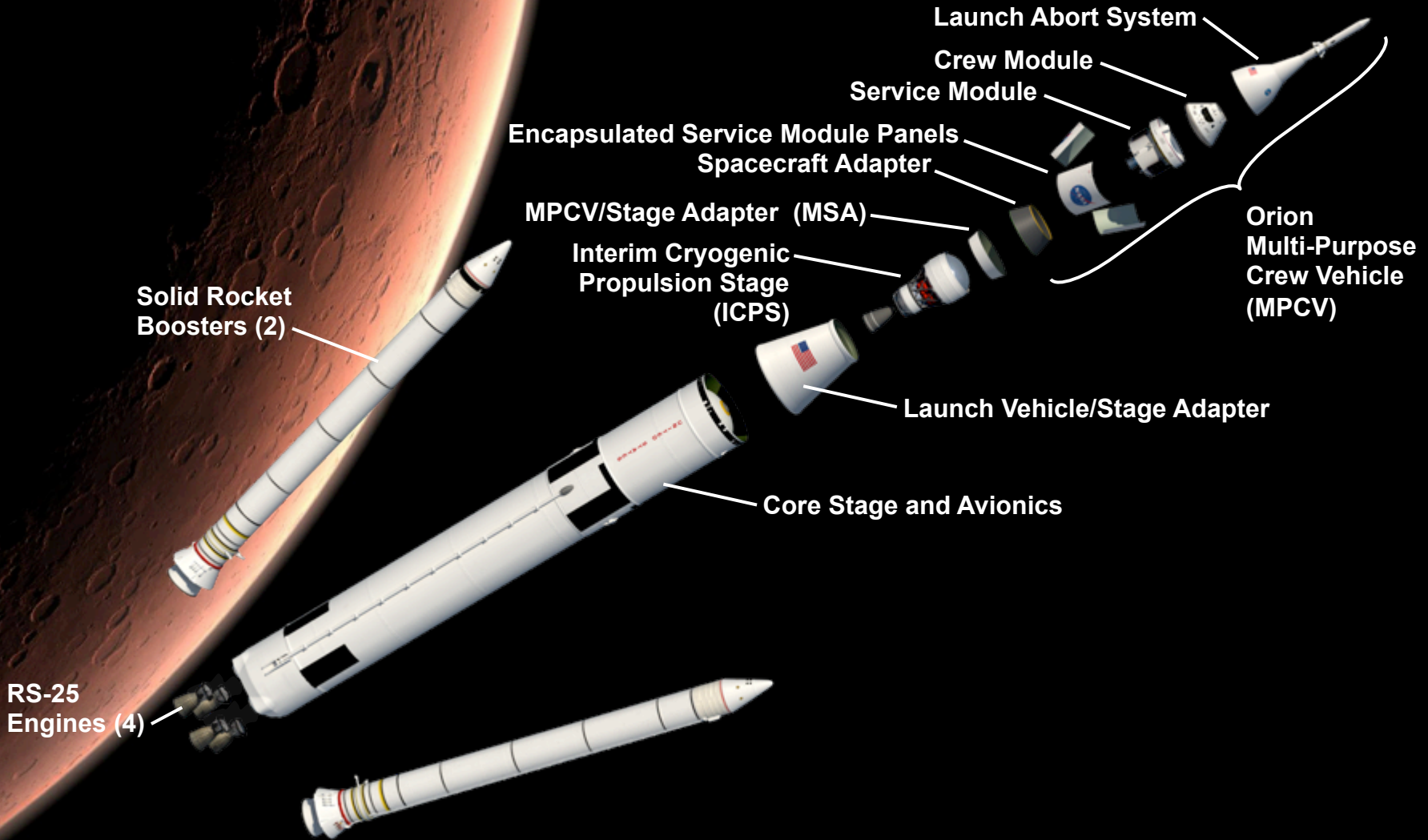
*March 2014*



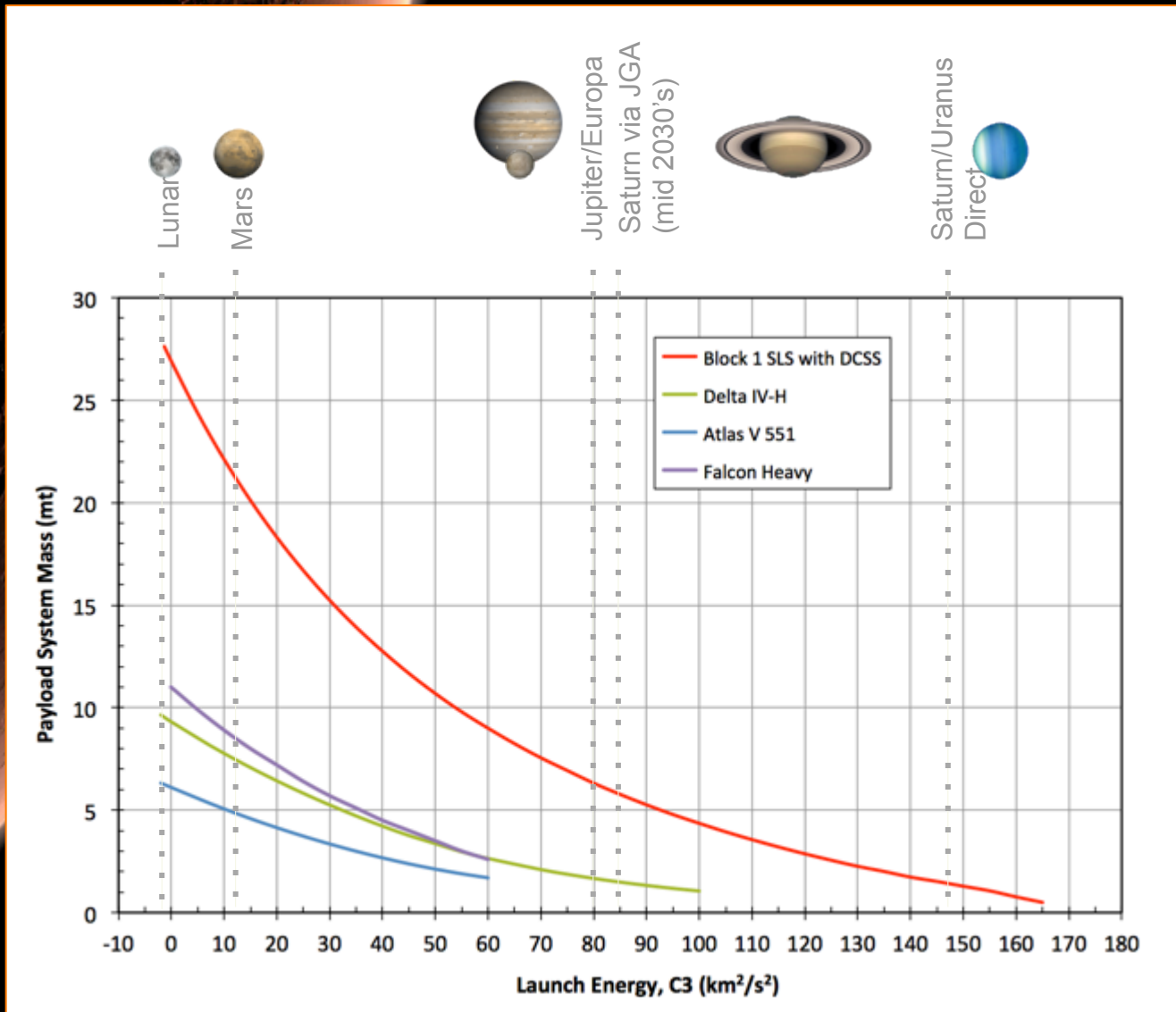
**Space Launch System**



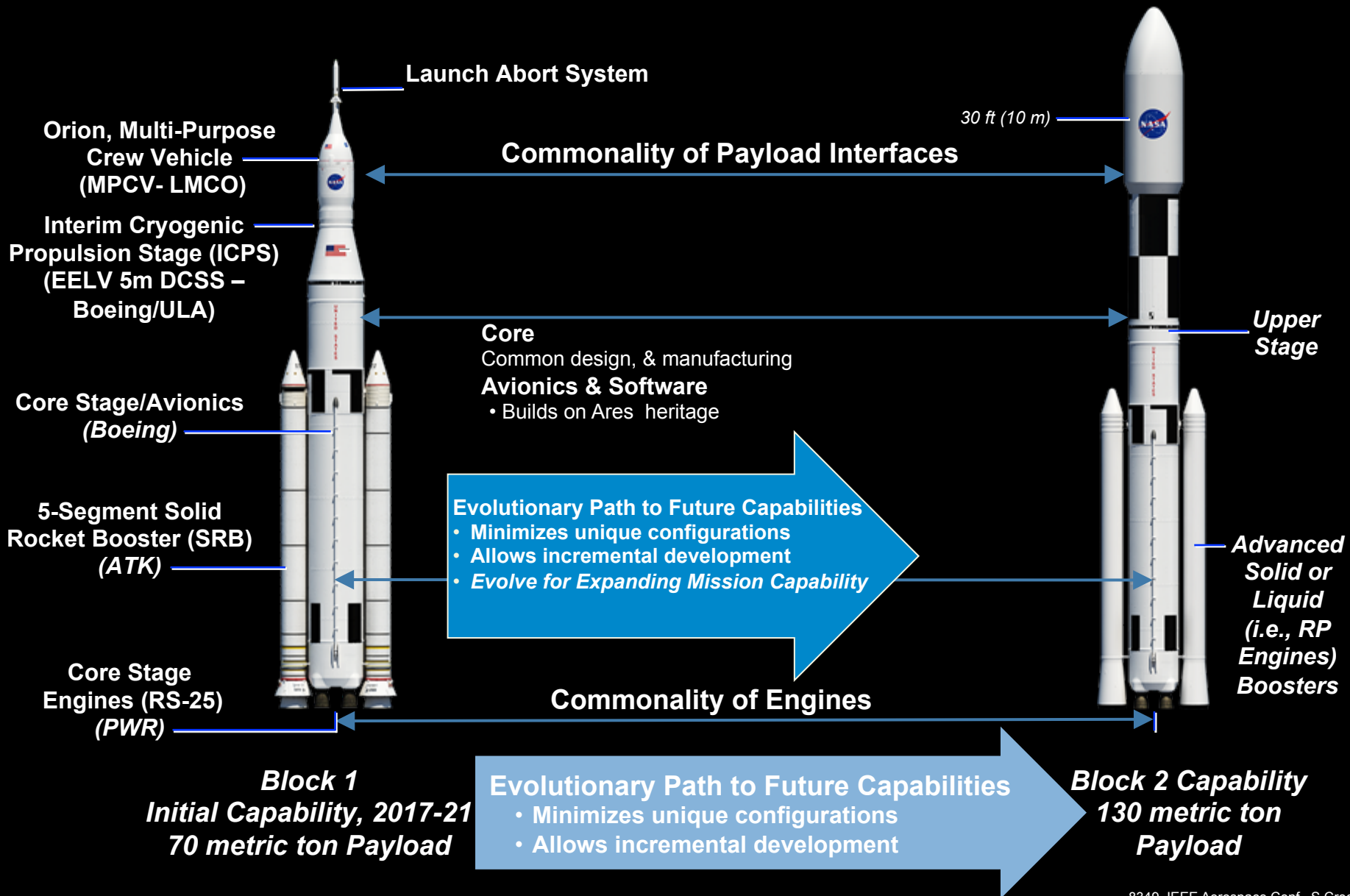
# SLS Initial Configuration



# SLS Initial Configuration Performance



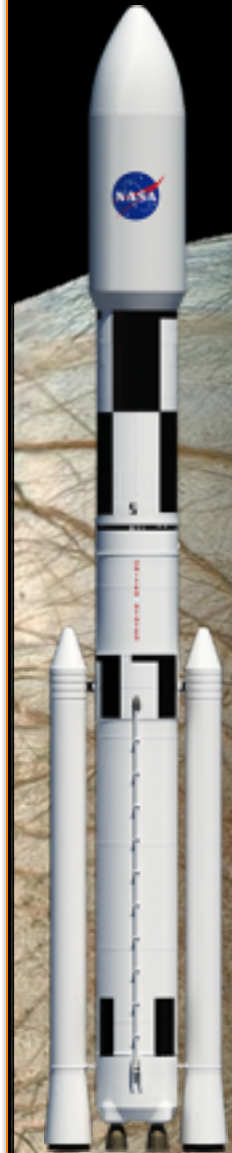
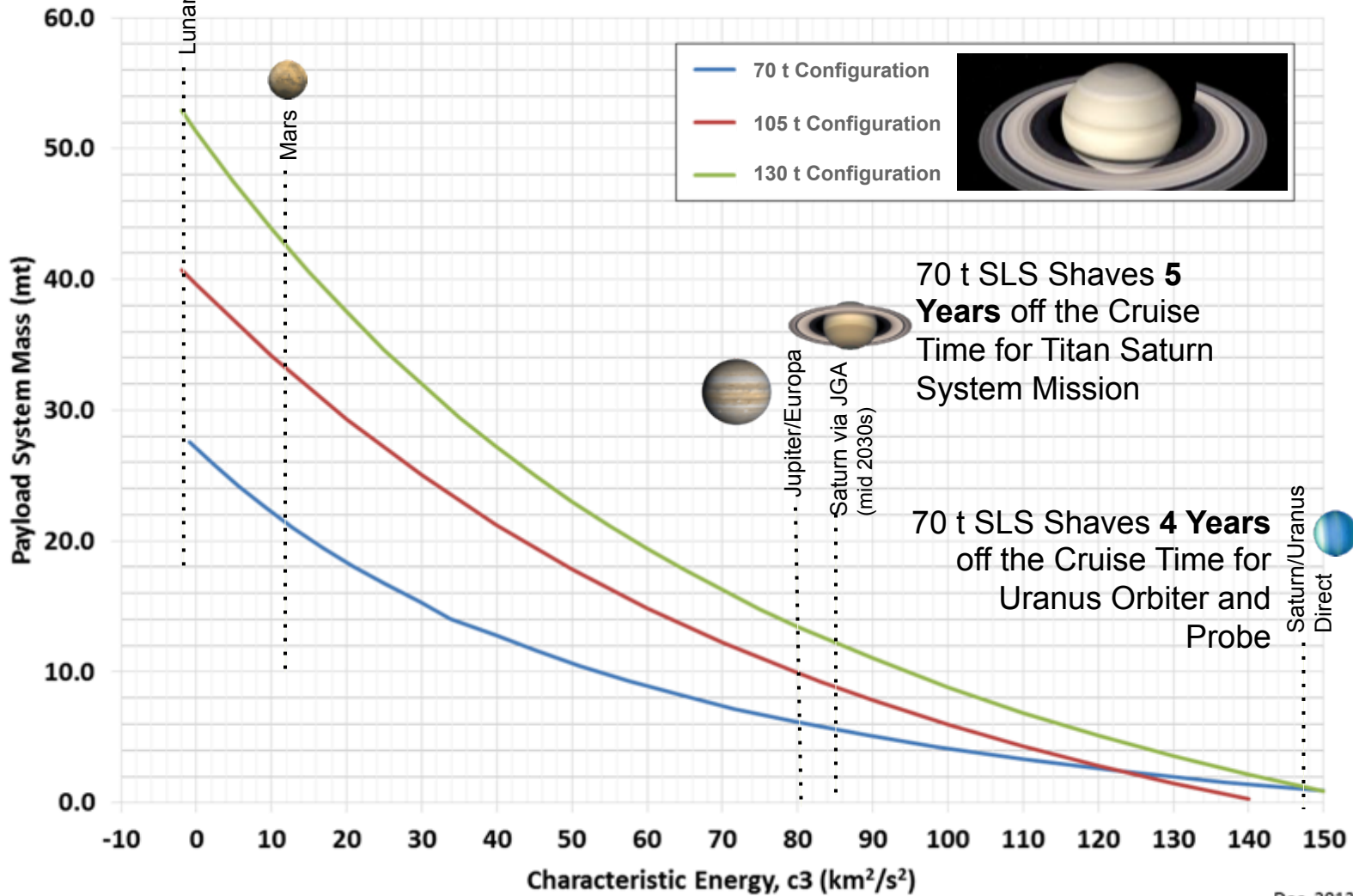
# SLS Block Commonality



# SLS Evolved Performance



## SLS Offers Reduced Transit Times to Outer Planets



Dec. 2013

# SLS Offers Unrivaled Payload Volume



- ◆ SLS is investigating utilizing existing fairings for early cargo flights, offering payload envelope compatibility with design for current EELVs
- ◆ Phase A studies in work for 8.4m and 10 m fairing options



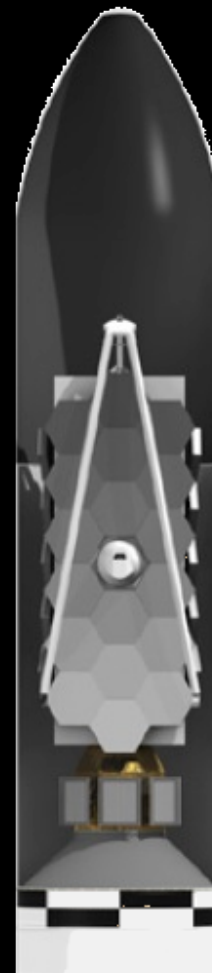
4m x 12m  
(100 m<sup>3</sup>)



5m x 14m  
(200 m<sup>3</sup>)



5m x 19m  
(300 m<sup>3</sup>)



8.4m x 31m  
(1200 m<sup>3</sup>)



10m x 31m  
(1800 m<sup>3</sup>)

# Global Exploration Roadmap



2013

2020

2030

## International Space Station



General Research and Exploration Preparatory Activities

Note: ISS partner agencies have agreed to use the ISS until at least 2020.

Commercial or Government Low-Earth Orbit Platforms and Missions

## Robotic Missions to Discover and Prepare



Mars Sample Return and Precursor Opportunities

## Human Missions Beyond Low-Earth Orbit



Explore Near-Earth Asteroid

Extended Duration Crew Missions

Humans to Lunar Surface

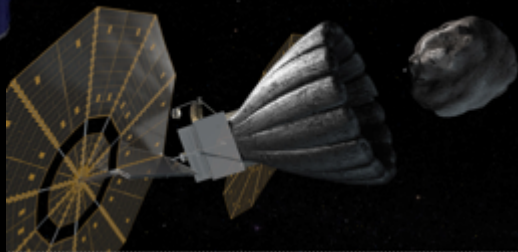
Missions to Deep Space and Mars System

Sustainable Human Missions to Mars Surface

# SLS Mission Capabilities



**Space Habitat**



**Asteroid Rendezvous**



**Deep Space Telescope**

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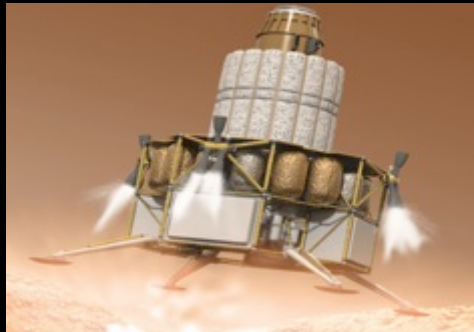
**GEO Servicing**



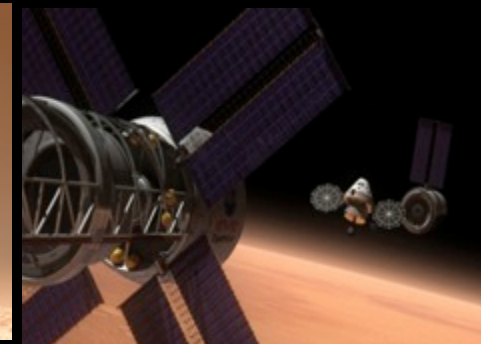
**Solar Probe**



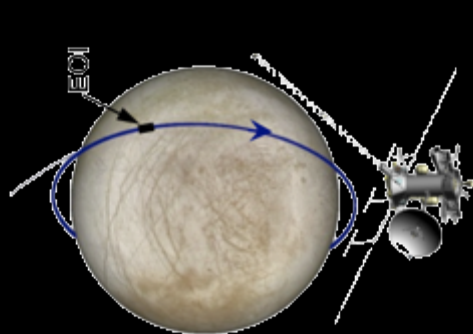
**Mars Sample Return**



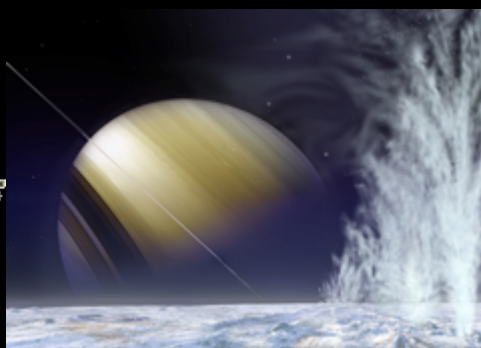
**Mars Cargo Lander**



**Humans to Mars**



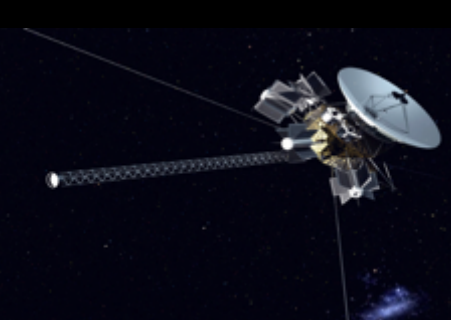
**Europa Clipper**



**Enceladus Return**



**Uranus Spacecraft**



**Interstellar**



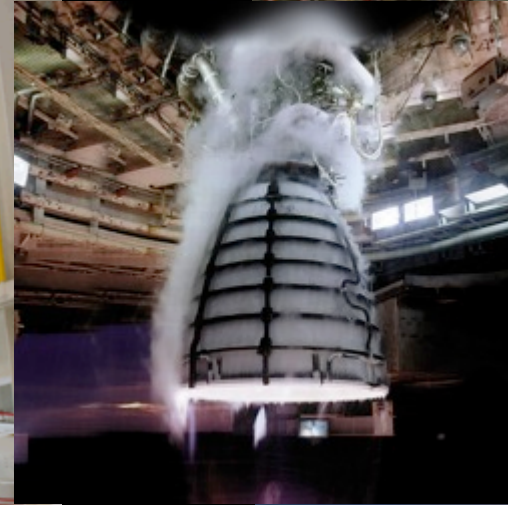
# SLS Benefits for Science Missions



- ◆ **SLS Being Developed to Enable Exploration**
  - **Volume and mass capability/margin required for complex deep-space human mission**
    - Increased design simplicity
    - Fewer origami-type payload designs needed to fit in the fairing
    - Simplifies on-orbit operations
    - Reduced risks and hazards
  
- ◆ **SLS investment can be leveraged for other missions requiring large volume or mass, or reduced trip times**
  - Deep Space Exploration
  - Planetary Landers
  - Human Habitats
  - Great Observatories
  - Space Solar Power
  - Outer Planet Missions
  - National Security Space Payloads



# Manufacture and Testing Underway



# Summary



- ◆ **SLS provides capability for human exploration missions.**
  - 70 t configuration enables EM-1 and EM-2 flight tests.
  - Evolved configurations enable missions including humans to Mars.
  
- ◆ **SLS offers unrivaled benefits for a variety of missions.**
  - 70 t provides greater mass lift than any contemporary launch vehicle; 130 t offers greater lift than any launch vehicle ever.
  - With 8.4m and 10m fairings, SLS will offer greater volume lift capability than any other vehicle.
  - Initial ICPS configuration and future evolution will offer high C3 for beyond-Earth missions.
  
- ◆ **SLS is currently on schedule for first launch in December 2017.**
  - Preliminary design completed in July 2013; SLS is now in implementation.
  - Manufacture and testing are currently underway.
  - Hardware now exists representing all SLS elements.