



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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

**Stephen Creech**

**Assistant Program Manager, Strategy & Partnerships**

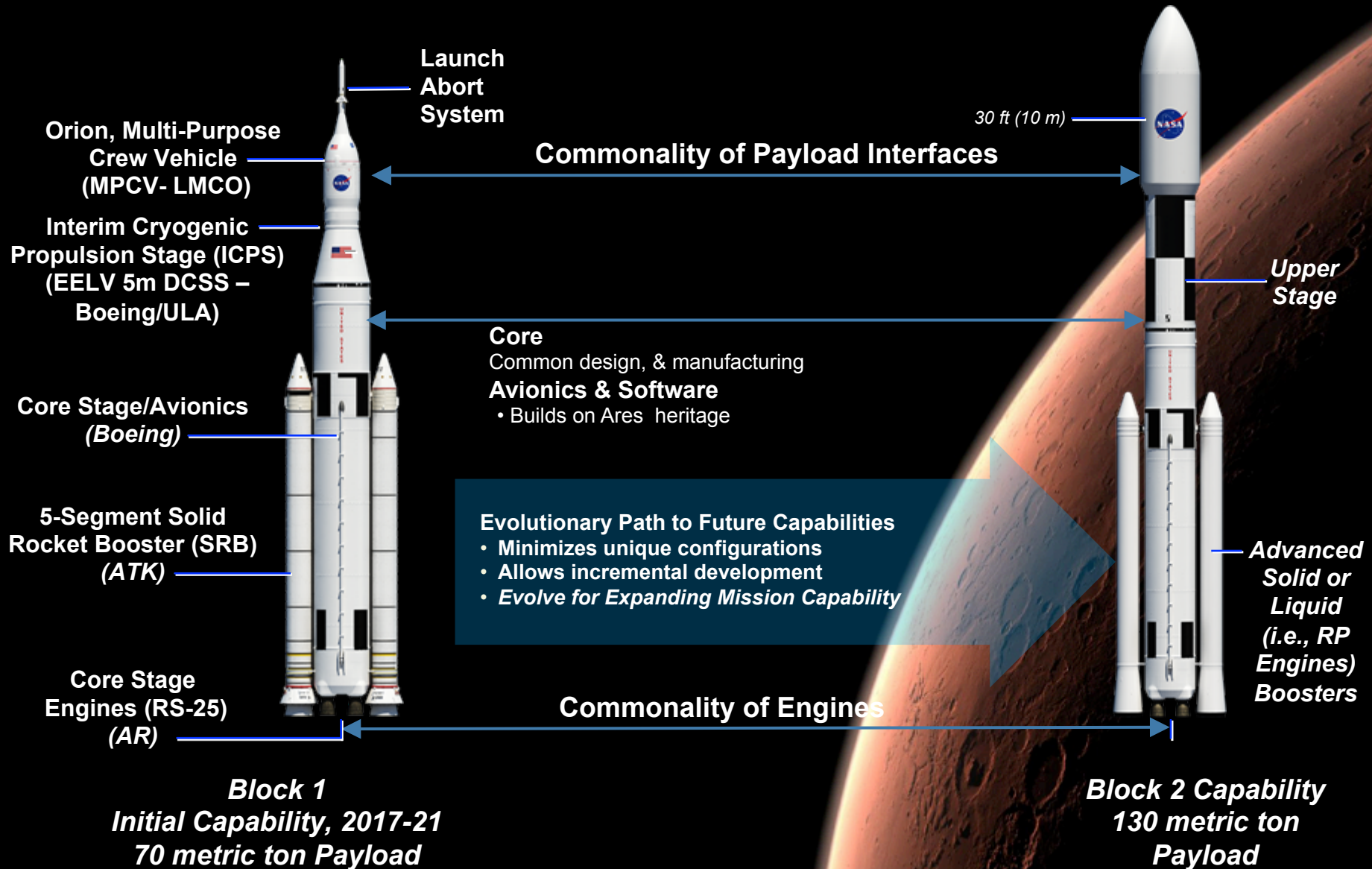
**Space Launch System (SLS) Program**

*April 2014*

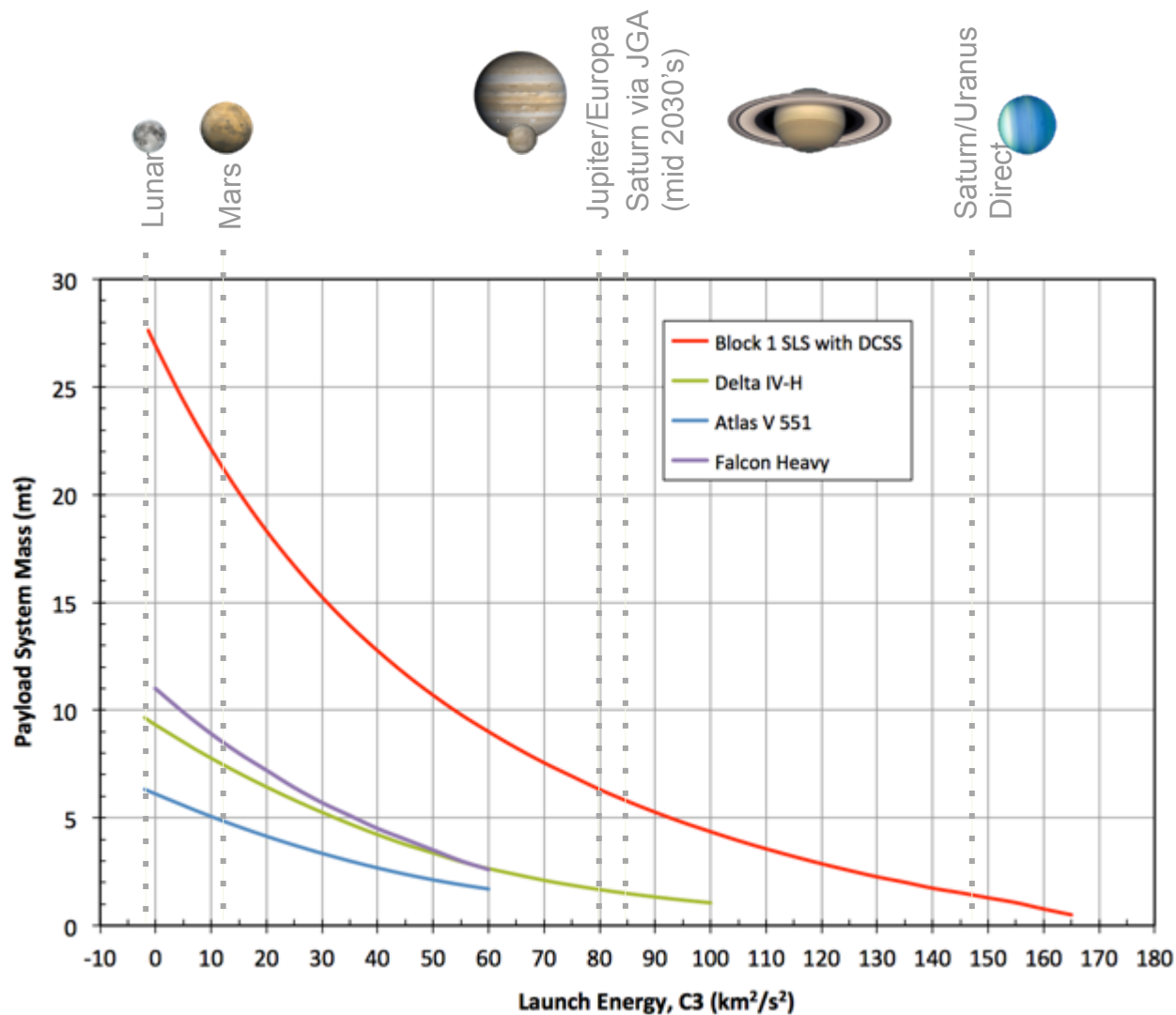
**Space Launch System**



# SLS Evolutionary Development



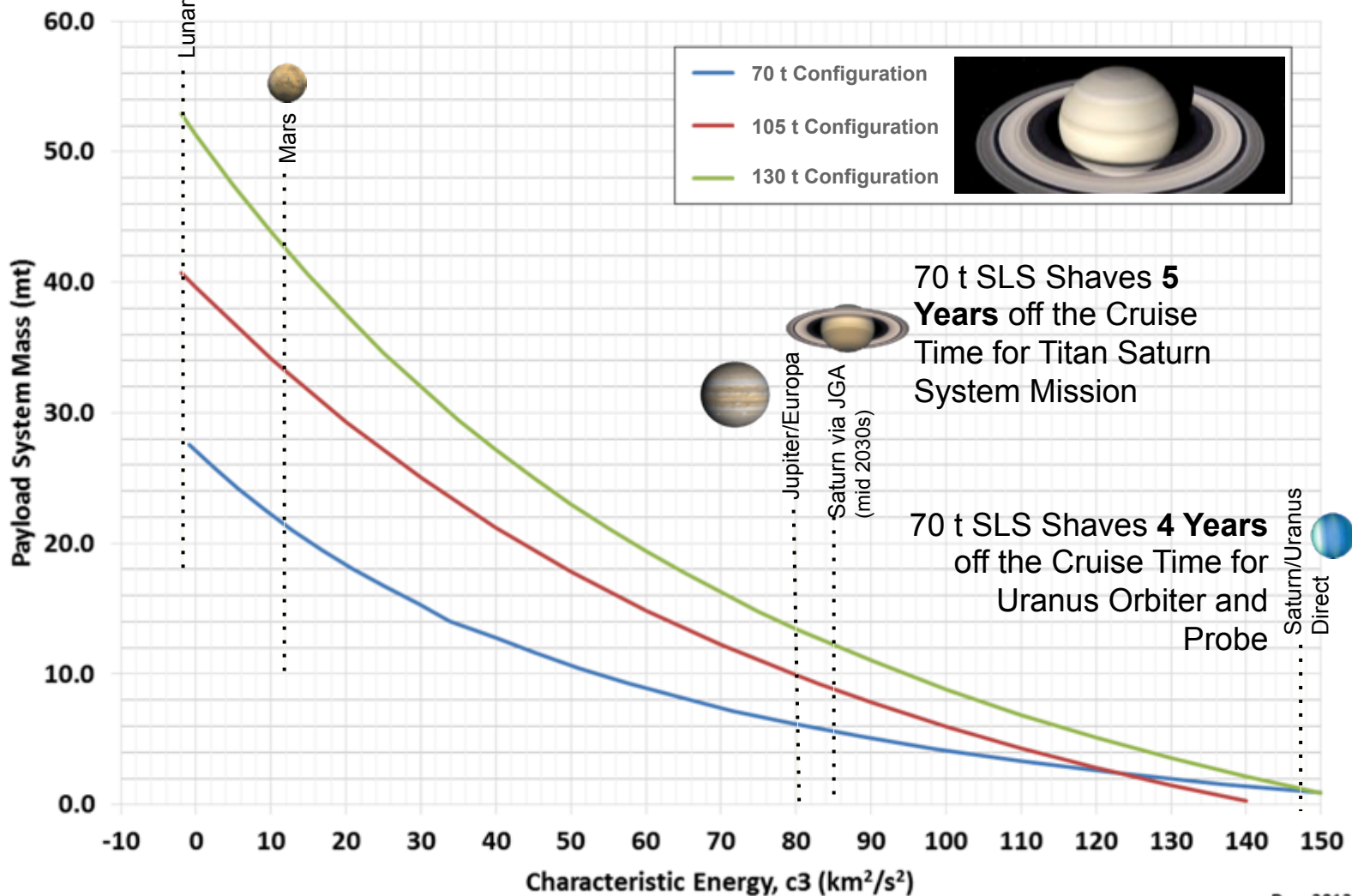
# SLS Initial Configuration Performance



# SLS Evolved Performance



## SLS Offers Reduced Transit Times to Outer Planets





# SLS Offers Unrivalled 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



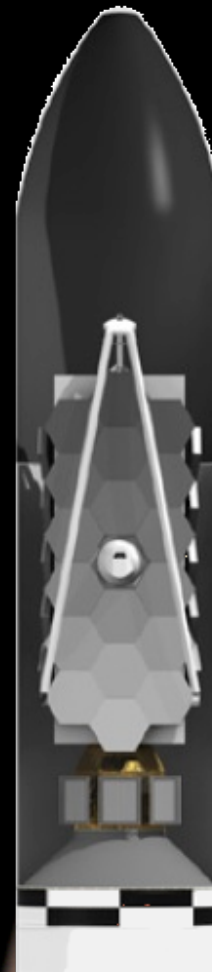
**4m x 12m**  
(100 m<sup>3</sup>)



**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>)



# SLS Benefits for Science Missions

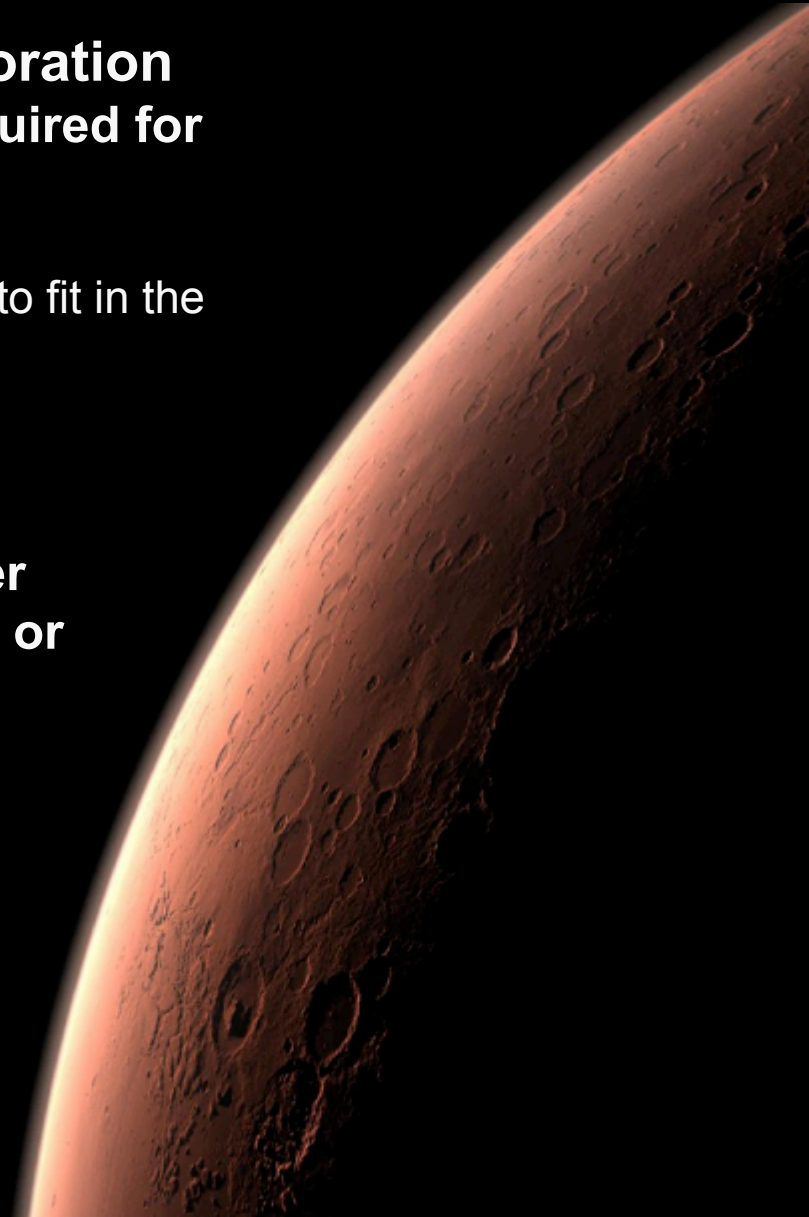


## ◆ SLS Being Developed to Enable Exploration

- **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

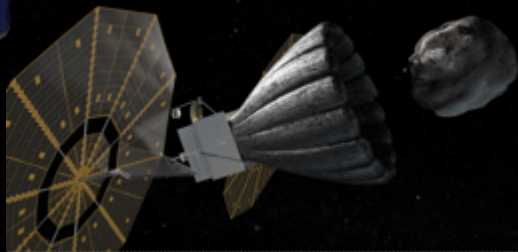




# SLS Mission Capabilities



**Space Habitat**



**Asteroid Rendezvous**



**Deep Space Telescope**



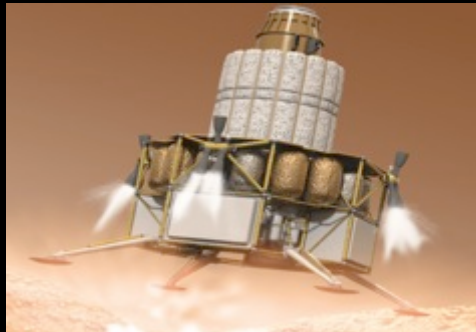
**GEO Servicing**



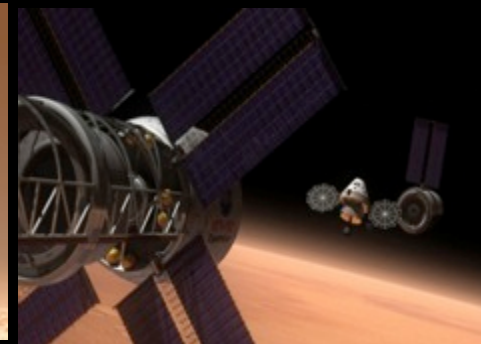
**Solar Probe**



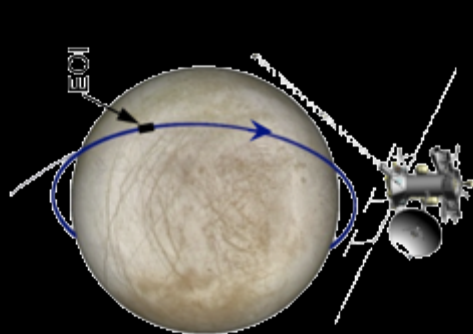
**Mars Sample Return**



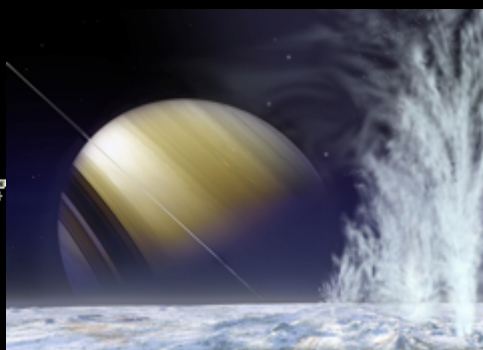
**Mars Cargo Lander**



**Humans to Mars**



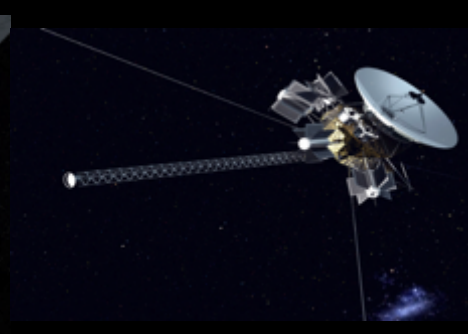
**Europa Clipper**



**Enceladus Return**



**Uranus Spacecraft**



**Interstellar**

# Recent Progress

**Launch Vehicle Stage Adapter:** Contract awarded in February 2014.

**Avionics:** Flight software tested at Armstrong using F-18 in November 2013; avionics “first light” marked in January 2014.



**Boosters:** Thrust Vector Control test conducted in October 2013; preparations underway for QM-1.



**MPCV-to-Stage Adapter:** First flight hardware delivered to ULA for Exploration Flight Test-1 in Fall 2014.

**Core Stage:** Initial confidence barrels and domes completed; MAF tooling installation to be completed in April 2014.



**Engines:** Thrust frame adapter fitted to A-1 stand at Stennis Space Center; RS-25 testing begins April 2014.





# 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.