

Germinating the 2050 Cis-Lunar Econosphere



Space 2100:

Projecting our future,
Pondering how it might evolve and
what we might start doing now to help it,
Seeding a global discussion,
and robusticizing MSFC in the process.

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Presented by Jessica Gaskin, MSFC
On behalf of the Space 2100 team

Lead Author - David W. Scott, MSFC
scotty@nasa.gov

SPACE 2100 ORIGINS

Late 2012 – MSFC Center Director wanted to engage employees at a grass roots level to shape and share unfettered, creative ideas about Marshall and NASA in the next century, far beyond and unfettered by any current strategic planning efforts.

Two primary goals:

- Grow fresh, futuristic ideas as described above
- Get folks out of their organizational cocoons, which can benefit day-to-day work as well

Guiding principles:

- Annual sprints - quick, conceptual exercises that stay very close to the surface. Within that context, maintain thoroughness and quality.
- The discussion itself and any resulting pollination is just as important as any conclusions reached.

CAUTION

**SPACE 2100 TEAM CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT PART OF
NASA OR MSFC STRATEGIC PLANNING,
AND DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL PLANS
OR POLICY.**

(THAT SAID, WE THINK THERE'S STILL VERY GOOD STUFF IN HERE!)

WINTER 2013 SPRINT

Describe the future of space exploration and Marshall's role in that future through the year 2100.

Define what will the world may look like in 2100?
What technologies will be online? How will we be working?
What grand challenges will the world be facing?

What might the world be doing in space in 2100?
What is NASA's role? What pieces seem "naturally" Marshall?

Working Assumptions

From Now Through 2100

NASA and MSFC continue to exist

U.S. and world economic & political structures evolve rationally

No Technological Singularity



I cannot make 'em glow blue yet, Captain.
Give me another 100 years, give or take!

Oh, how could I forget?...



or similar man-made crisis

and



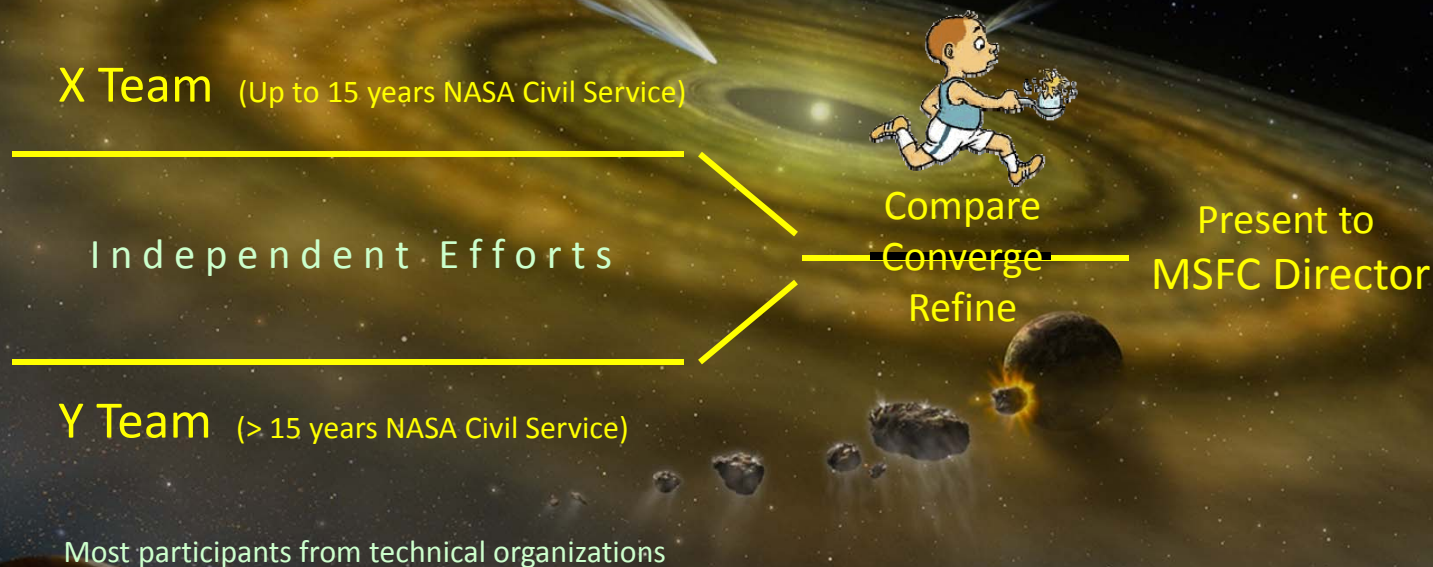
Houston... You have a problem!

How will the world and space work in 2100?

Winter 2013 Sprint

What might NASA's role be, and what pieces would fit MSFC?

(Process Flow)



The sprint was primed by sharing a lot of articles via Explornet, MSFC's internal social network

X-Y Characterization:

- Very similar conclusions about what 2100 looks like
- X modeled technology progress by considering historical and social influences
- Y projected based on history of technology
- The two approaches were not coordinated... they just happened!

Team X's Lenses for Projecting to 2100

U.S. Constitution



Provide for the common defense
Promote the general welfare
Secure the blessings of liberty

Mapped these to NACA & NASA roles

American Generational Theory

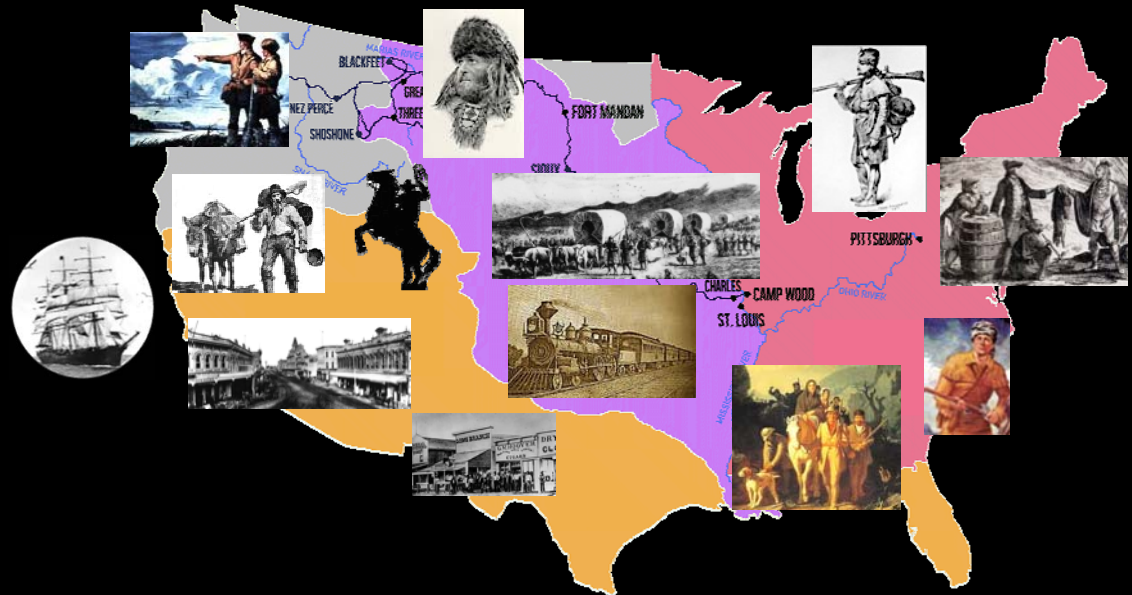
Strauss & Howe, 1991

American history as a series of four ~20-year social or mood eras or "Turnings:"

| | | | | | |
|------------|------|----------------------|-----|------|--------------------------|
| Crisis | 1773 | American Revolution | ... | 2002 | War on Terror, Financial |
| High | 1792 | Era of Good Feelings | ... | 2027 | Supra-national |
| Awakening | 1822 | Transcendental | ... | 2052 | Globalization |
| Unraveling | 1845 | Civil War | ... | 2077 | New Colonial |

Frontier Theory

Frederick Jackson Turner, 1893



A shifting frontier line between wilderness and settlement led to an innovative, aggressive, and independent mindset

Team Y's Look Back - About 100 Years of Tech



Air travel, space exploration



Gigaflop computing



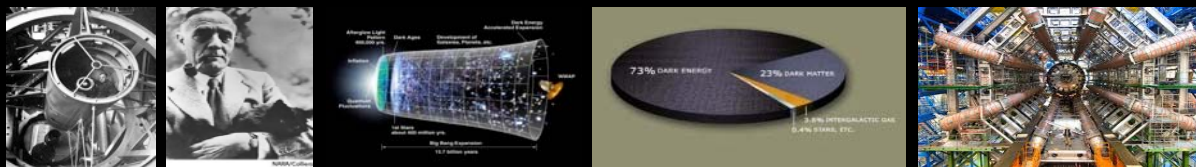
Nuclear energy



Global communications



Manufactured body parts,
vaccines, antibiotics,
molecular biology



Evolving understanding
of the universe

Team Y's Look Forward – Gamechangers Beyond 2100

(Breakthroughs are unpredictable, so we assumed conservative progress in these areas. While there *could* be huge advances by 2100, we didn't bank on it. If there are, hang on and enjoy the ride!)

Now



What

Orders of magnitude
propulsion & speed increase

Control of aging

Superabundant, clean,
inexpensive energy

Human/Machine
merging

When?



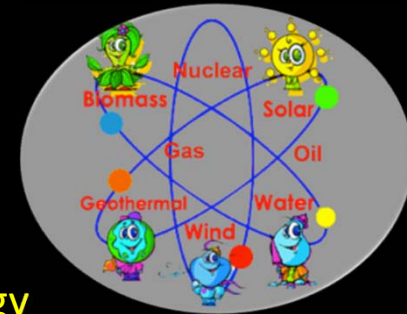
And when X and Y combined forces...

Earth Technology Themes in 2100



Information

Instant, Immersive



Energy

Abundant, Clean, Economical



Manufacturing

Distributed, Additive



AI/Robotics

AI Exceeds "Human Intelligence"



Health

Disease Management



Earth Social Themes in 2100



Education

Highly Tailored to the Individual



Employment

Robotic Workforce, Engineering by AI



Environment

Food, Water,
Population, Climate



Political

Global Responsibility & Cooperation



Security/Privacy

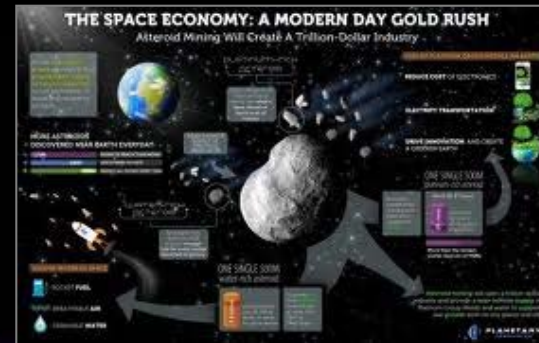
Individual Empowerment & Monitoring

Space Social Themes in 2100



Economics

Space Resources are Significant to Global Economy



International

Big Science, Regulatory & Terrestrial Threats



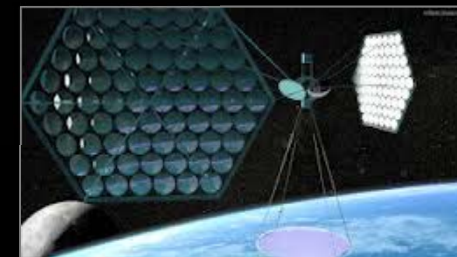
Colonization

Back up to Earth Civilization



Exploration

Government, Industry, Academia & Personal



Utilization

Significant Industry Presence & Operations in Inner System

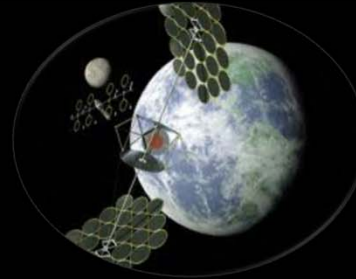
Space Technology Themes in 2100

Derived from Earth 2100 Technologies



Transportation

Nuclear, Deep Space
5 AU manned, 500 AU unmanned

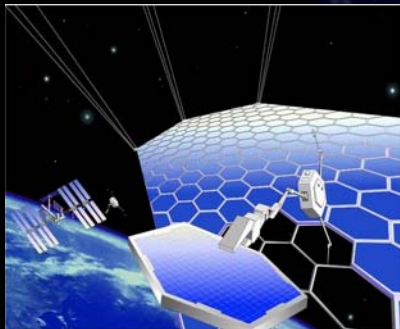


Energy

Carbon neutral,
Space-Based Solar

Manufacturing

ISRU Based, Additive



AI/Robotics

Full Simulation Prior to Build
Robotic Assembly,
Highly Autonomous Missions



Health

Radiation, Bone Loss Countermeasures
Advanced Habitation & Life Support

What Might NASA's Role Include in 2100?

| Earth Situation | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Resource Limits | New Technologies |
| Space Situation | |
| Abundant Resources | Expanding Frontier |

Space industry support analogous to what NACA did for aeronautics (e.g., low-mid TRL projects, mishap investigation, support diverse stakeholders)

Push boundaries

- Pursue breakthroughs in space-related knowledge, capabilities, and resources
- Conduct Exploration & Science where the business case doesn't yet close

What Areas Seem “Naturally” MSFC?



High risk, high payoff science & technology
Inner solar system transportation technologies
Self-supporting habitats & technologies
Self-repairing, self-reproducing space systems

2000 - 2025

2025 - 2050

2050 - 2075

2075 - 2100

>> Social Trends and Evolving Technologies

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government/International Cooperation • Additive Manufacturing • DIY / Open Source Movement • De-emphasis on Formal Education • Growth of Private Space Market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Independence • Streamlining of Government Processes • International Cooperation • Global Market/Bazaar (Bidding for Common Resources) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fusion Economy • Thorium power • Growing Infrastructure for Space Economy • Suborbital Flights for Intercontinental Travel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life-extending Medical Research and Technologies • Self-Sustaining Outposts for Research and Long Duration Missions • Space Colonization |
|---|---|---|--|

>> Opportunities enabled by evolving technologies and social trends

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Scale Launch Vehicles (SLS, SLS Block II) • In-Space and Propulsion Technology Development • Cooperation with DoD, DoE, NOAA • Additive Manufacturing • Support Private Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy Source and Production R&D • International Collaboration on Large Scale Projects • Asteroid Mining • Build Cislunar Infrastructure • Define Constraints of Global Marketplace (e.g. Earth Orbits, Radio) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage Advanced Space Propulsion Research for Power Generation Technology • Provide Low-cost Access to Space for Academia and Small Business • Build Rendezvous and Rescue Vehicles for Commercial Space Tourism/Commerce • Launch Interstellar Robotic Probe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robotic Missions for Interstellar Space Colony Construction • Enable Individual Research through Citizen Outreach and Partnerships • Inflatable, Low-Cost Payloads for Individual Research Initiatives |
|---|--|--|--|

2000 - 2025

2025 - 2050

2050 - 2075

2075 - 2100

WINTER 2014 SPRINT

SCENARIO

It's 2050.

Space tourism is thriving.
Multinational companies are mining.
Commercial lunar outposts are under construction.

We are NASA.

Space is open for business.



WINTER 2014 SPRINT

CHALLENGE

Outline NASA's role in the space economy of 2050.

How do we enable commercial activity in space?

What practices are needed?

How do they differ from those today?

Consider commercial agreements, international partnerships, intellectual property, safety, security and regulations.

We are committed to economic success.

Space is open for business.



2050 Cis-Lunar Econsphere (CLE)

(Process Flow)

Winter 2014 Sprint



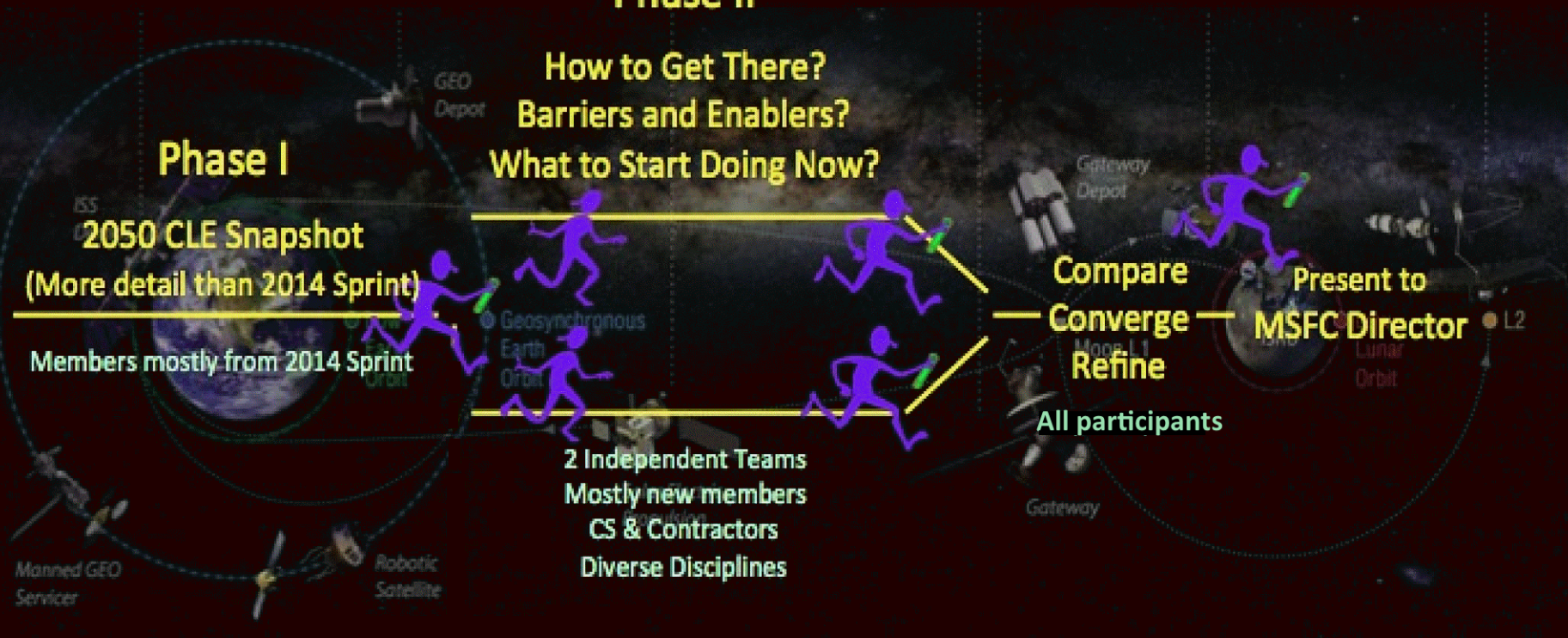
Phase II

How to Get There?
Barriers and Enablers?
What to Start Doing Now?

Phase I

2050 CLE Snapshot
(More detail than 2014 Sprint)

Members mostly from 2014 Sprint



2050 Cis-Lunar Ecosphere

Winter 2014 Sprint

(Process Discoveries)



The Technology issues to get to 2050 are relatively easy!
(or at least straightforward)

Diverse teams created their own culture:

Conversations flowed; standard processes were not followed

All ideas were built-upon (“plussing”)

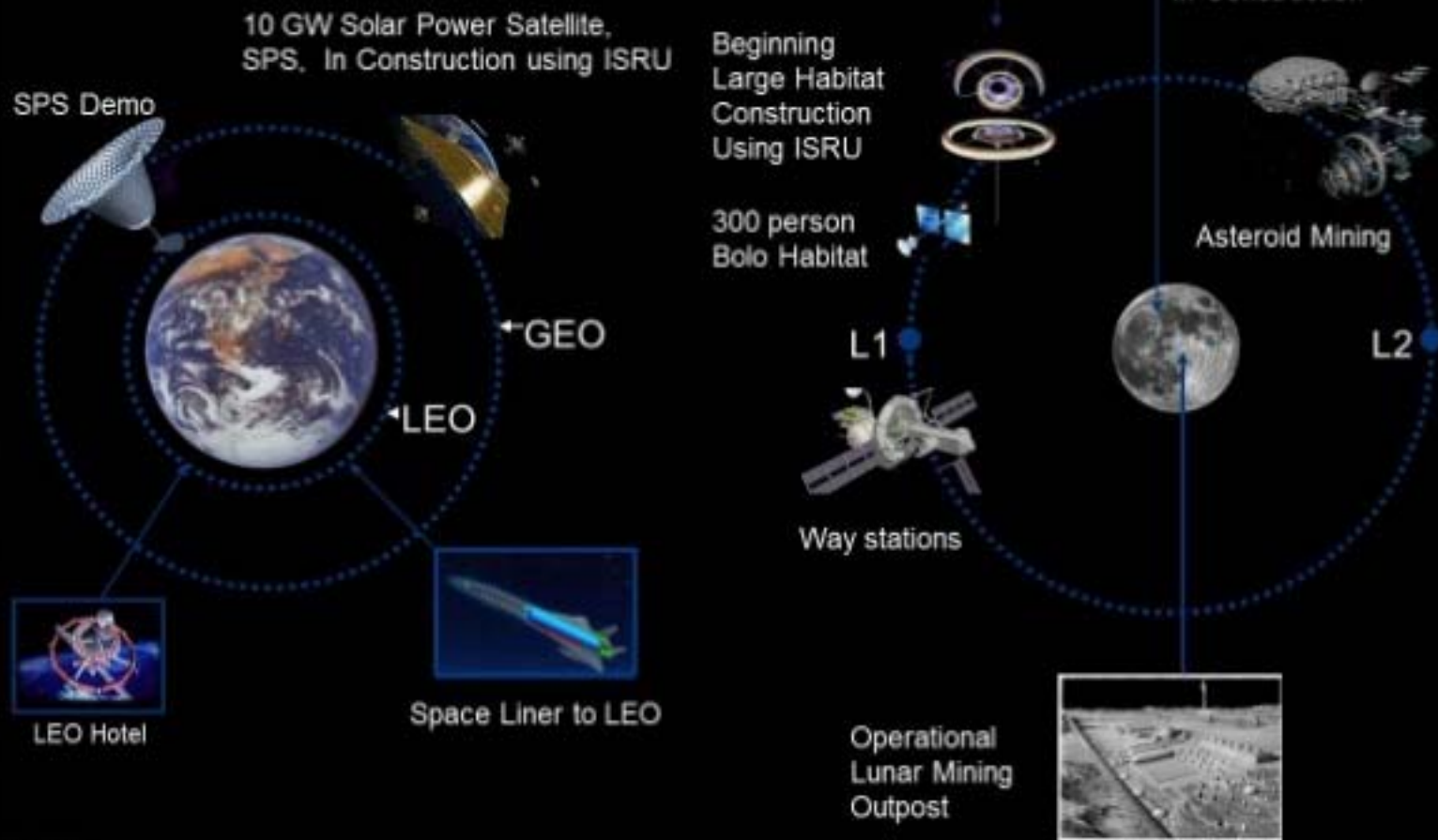


Terminology was simpler due to language differences (technical, law, business), and refreshed our memory of our own disciplines’ roots

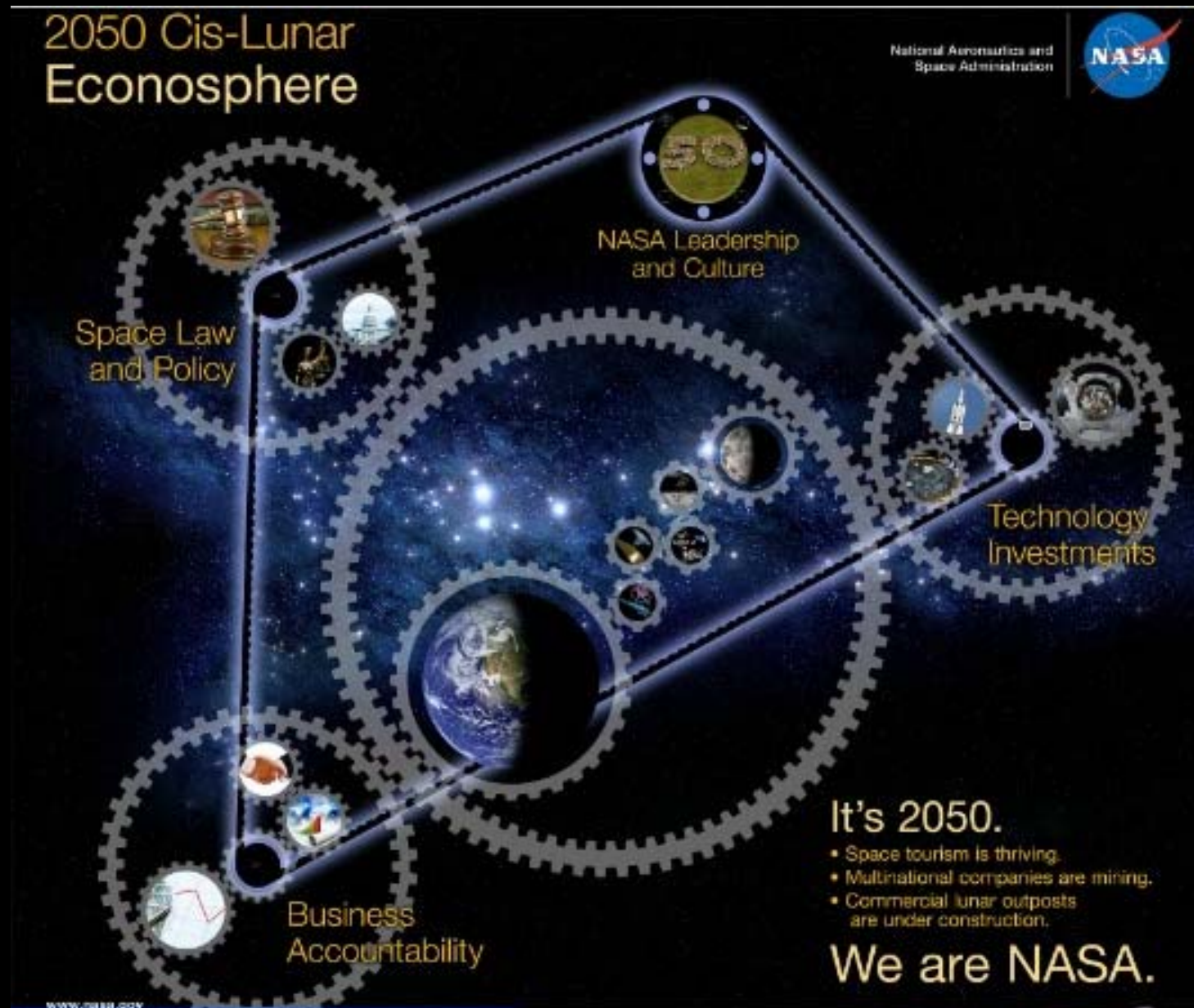
Fear was broken down by accepting risk of “crazy” ideas

Phase 1 Results – A Snapshot of the “What”

2050 CIS-LUNAR ECONOSPHERE

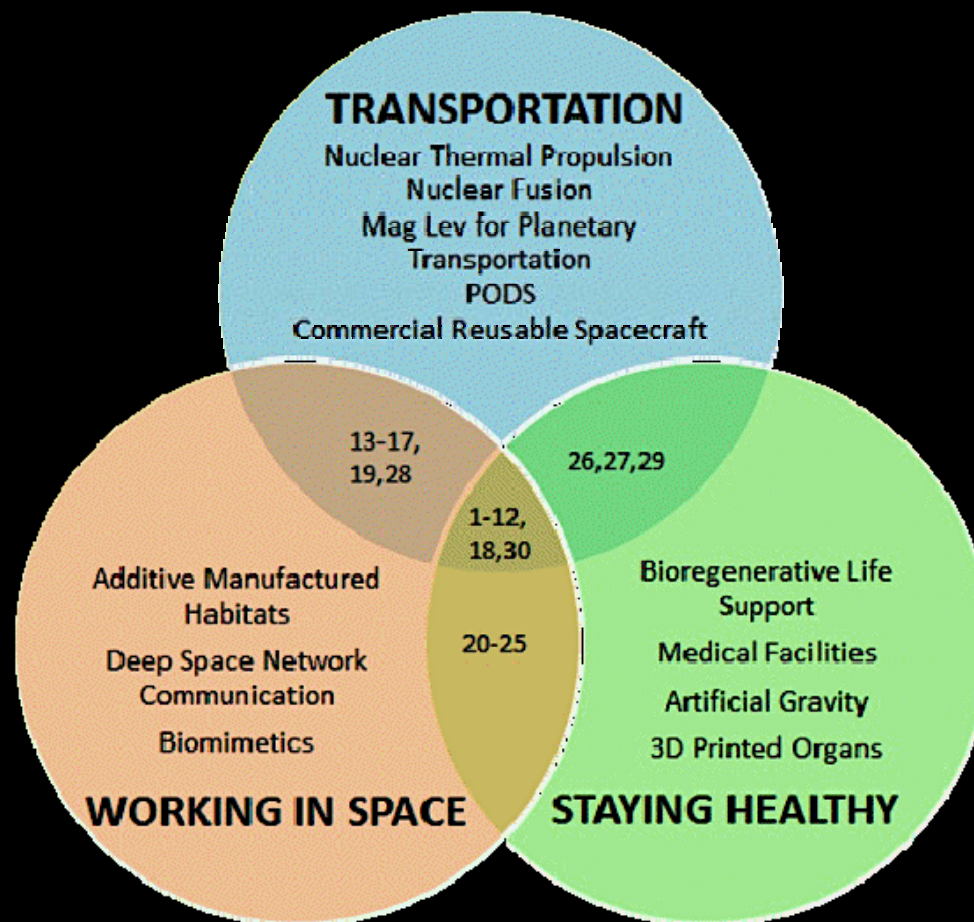


Phase 2 Results - How We Might Germinate the 2050 CLE aka "The Gear Chart"



A Word or Three About Our 2015 Sprint

In response to a request from NASA's Advanced Exploration Office (AES), Space 2100 has pondered which technologies will be critical for totally self-sufficient exploration of the solar system (~60 years from now?), particularly those at the intersections of the three major categories below. (The index numbers refer to a "Top 30" list derived during the Sprint.)



We love this job!

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**(THAT SAID, WE HOPE THAT A) YOU FOUND GREAT STUFF IN HERE, AND
B) YOU'LL HELP GROW THE CONVERSATION!)**