## NASA's Fexible Path for the Human Exploration

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## Speaker Introduction



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## NASA Career Highlights

- Developed digital controls for jet engines
- Managed a NASA Branch that worked design, development and verification of the power system for the International Space Station
- Managed NASA Branch that developed advanced power technologies
- Currently working on power systems for Deep Space Habitats

Interesting Fact - After 40 years with NASA, the only rocket launch witnessed "Ilive" is the one in the picture

## Discussion Topics

- What is the Flexible Approach to Exploration?
- Path to Mars
- International Space Station
- Ongoing vehicle developments
- Future Vehicle Developments
- Mars and its Moons
- Evolvable Mars Campaign expansion of capabilities and distance
- Technical challenges
- Take Aways


# The Future of Human Space Exploration NASA's Building Blocks to Mars 

U.S. companies provide affordable access to low Earth orbit

Pushing the boundaries in cis-lunar space

Developing planetary independence
by exploring Mars, its moons, and other deep space destinations.

The next step: traveling beyond low-Earth orbit with the Space Launch System rocket and Orion crew capsule

Missions: 6 to 12 months
Return: hours

Missions: 2 to 3 years Return: months
Earth Independent

## International Space Station -- ISS

## International Space Station

- International crew of 6
- 75 kW of power
- Solar array and batteries
- Orbits
- Every 90 minutes
- 240 miles above earth
- 17000 Miles per hour
- 51.6 Orbit inclination
- Weighs 400 tons
- 32000 Cubic feet of

Pressurized Volume

- Total footprint is the size of a football field



## How can I see the ISS?

| 00000 Verizon $\approx$ | $7: 20 \mathrm{PM}$ | $1 * 100 \% \square$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: |
| Smart alarms | Forecast | Share |




Orbit Location

Time of next visible pass
${ }_{* * *}$ Are the best

## Vehicle Developments to Support Exploration

## The Orion Spacecraft



## The Space Launch System (SLS)

- Designed to carry the Orion spacecraft, cargo, equipment and science experiments to Earth's orbit and destinations beyond.
- The SLS will have an initial lift capacity of 70 metric tons and will be evolvable to 130 metric tons.
- It will use a liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen propulsion system, which will include the RS-25 from the Space Shuttle Program for the core stage and the $\mathrm{J}-2 \mathrm{X}$ engine for the upper stage.
- SLS will use solid rocket boosters for the initial development flights, followon boosters will be competed based on performance requirements and affordability considerations.


Initial 70 metric ton configuration

## Potential Future Vehicle Developments

## Potential Deep Space Vehicle

- Crew of 4 to 6
- Provide living space for long duration missions
- Solar Array / Battery System - 24+ KW
- Potential to be operated in Low Lunar Orbit, Near Rectilinear Orbit or Deep Space
- Provides docking accommodation for multiple vehicles - resupply as well as landers
- Platform for the checkout and validation of advanced technologies
- Closed loop life support systems
- Advanced automation systems
- Etc.


Deep space vehicle concepts

## What is Solar Electric Propulsion?

This:


Dawn Spacecraft


- A low mass / high efficiency propulsion system typically used for reconnaissance of planets and asteroids
- Results in very long travel times for missions - Not high speed intercept
- Real ion propulsion develops fractional Newton's or fractional lbs of thrust


## Not That:



Twin lon Engine (TIE) Fighter from Star Wars

Ion Engine

## Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP)

## Description

- Provides high propellant efficiency or ISP = 3000 vs 450 for H2 / O2 Prop.
- Fuel -- Xeon gas
- Reduced launch mass over chemical systems

GRC Role

- Block I vehicle power 50kW (BOL) and 42kW (EOL)
- Extendable to 150 kW
- Operates over a range from 0.8 AU to 1.7AU
- Applicable to a wide variety of missions



## Mars and Its Moons

## Mars Characteristics

- $1 / 2$ the size of earth ( 0.533 earth radius)
- Solar distance 143 MMiles Vs 93 MMiles (Earth)
- Insolation = 43\% of Earth
- Surface gravity $=0.376 \mathrm{~g}$
- Average temperature = -81degrees F
- Length of day / year = 24 hrs / 687 days
- Axis tilt = 25 degrees
- Roundtrip Communications delay
- 15 to 45 minutes
- Atmosphere is mostly $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$
- Mean Pressure 0.8 inches of Hg
- 22 miles above Earth sea level
- Polar Ice Caps
- North - Permanent H2O -- temporary cap of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ in Winter
- South - Permanent H2O -- a year round cap of $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$
- Magnetic Field - None -- solar wind continuously strips away pieces of the Martian atmosphere


## Mars' Moons

Deimos (Terror / Dread)

- Orbital Period = 30 hrs.
- Orbital radius =14,600 miles
- Size =15 x12x11 km
- Surface gravity $=0.0003 \mathrm{~g}$

Phobos (Panic / Fear)

- Orbital period = 8 hrs.
- Orbit radius = 5,800 Miles
- Size = 27x22x18 Km
- Surface gravity $=0.00058 \mathrm{~g}$
- Mars occupies a large amount of Phobos sky
- Can shield astronauts from cosmic rays \& solar radiation for 2/3 of every orbit
- Provides a base for real-time robotic exploration of Mars


## Maximum Vertical Jump - <br> 650 lb. Suited Crew (crew + suit + jetpack)



## Flexible Approach to Exploration



## Evolvable Mars Campaign Expansion of Capabilities and Distance

## JOURNEU TOMARS



SYSTEM


INTERNATIONAL
SPAGE STATION


## GETTING TO MARS

 via split-mission conceptDESTINATION
SYSTEMS \& CREW
RETUN VEHCLE
SEP pre-deloy to
Mars orbit
PHOBOS
DESTINATION
SSIEMS
SEP pre-deploy to
Phobos
;

## GETTING TO MARS via split-mission concept



## GETTING TO MARS via split-mission concept



## Key Technical Challenges

## Key Challenges

## There and Back

- Ability to launch a powerful rocket
- High reliabity space craft systems
- Size requirement for crew capsule
- High thrust in-space propulsion systems


## Happy and Healthy

- Air, food and water
- Waste containment
- Psychological impact
- Low / no gravity
- Medical emergencies


## Well Equipped and Productive

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { - High power surface systems } \\
& \text { - Situational awareness and decision making } \\
& \text { Behavior Health (Crew Relationships) }
\end{aligned}
$$

- Deep space navigation
- Rendezvous and docking
- Life support systems
- High speed re-entry
- Bone loss
- Radiation
- Ocular degeneration
- Hygiene
- Training and Tools
- Mission Planning
- Space suits


## Radiation Dosage

Radiation Exposure on a trip to Mars is a big Issue

- 2.4 to $3.4 \mathrm{mSv} / \mathrm{year}$ is natural radiation dose on earth
- $0.2 \mathrm{mSv} /$ round trip between NY and Tokyo
- 6.9 mSv / time for a CT scan
- 75 mSV for 6 months on the ISS
- 350 mSV for 180 day trip to Mars or 500 day stay on the planet
- Upper limit dose for radiation workers -$250 \mathrm{mSv} /$ year


$$
1 \text { SV = } 100 \text { REMs= } 1 \text { joule / Kg }
$$

## Behavioral Health

- Behavioral areas susceptible to increased risk over a one year mission:
(1) sleep loss, circadian desynchrony, workload and fatigue
(2) stress, morale and mood changes*
(3) cognitive functioning
(4) interpersonal conflicts*
(5) motivational challenges*
(6) family separation and personal communications
- Desire realistic environment and population to validate countermeasures.
- Preliminary analysis for ISS (ongoing study):
- Available measures of subjective stress, sleep quality, and vigilance
$\checkmark$ not all monotonic with mission time
$\checkmark$ do not plateau by six months
- Sleep quality and vigilance have similar trends which suggest increasing performance deficits for longer missions.


## One-Year ISS Missions Behavioral Concerns

## Interpersonal Conflicts

- ISS Journal entries on conflict by mission quarter
- ISS Group Interaction Positivity Ratings by mission quarter (244 entries)


Interpersonal conflict can impact crew performance and mission success (De Dreu \& Weingart, 2003)

## Nuclear Thermal Propulsion Systems

- Vehicle has crew size of between 4 to 6 for a multimonth voyage
- Docking ports for 2 MultiPurpose Crew Vehicles
- Propellant heated directly by a nuclear reactor and thermally expanded / accelerated through a nozzle
- Low molecular weight propellant - typically Hydrogen
Propellant mass approx. $1 / 4$ of standard chemical stages



## Costs and Politics

## What are the Realities of Going to Mars

- Going to Mars is a long term expensive undertaking
- What is the cost? - Don't ask questions that you don't want to know the answer
- Considerable increase in the NASA budget will be needed to realize a human mission to Mars
- The road to Mars will need a political commitment through multiple administrations to reach the goal


## Interesting Video on Exploration

- http://vimeo.com/108650530


## Take Away's

- Going to Mars will require and array of new technologies to overcome the inherent challenges and obstacles that the journey imposes
- The journey will require a major investment in \$ and "political will" over several decades to achieve the goal
- Ultimately space is the "final frontier" and it is human destiny to go to Mars



## Questions?

## Aerospace Careers

## Careers and Education

- Individuals with skills in science and technology are necessary if the United States is going to remain competitive in the global economy
- Opportunities are better in engineering and computer science that hard sciences like biology / chemistry / physics
- Students need to understand and be proficient in the basics of math and science.
- Algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus
- Chemistry and physics even biology
- Presentation Skills (Presentation development and public speaking)
Ability to write and communicate - media driven culture.
- Ability to work as part of a team.

Understand the political, business and financial components as well as the technical component to all solutions

## Aerospace Careers




## Back-up Slides

## Ion Propulsion




## RADIATION EFFECTS ON HUMANS

Felt almost immediately when a large dose of radiation is
accumulated in a short amount of time Causes
diseases, which can lead to changes in motor function and behavior


GHRONIC

- Effects can be experienced decades after exposure
- Results from an accumulated dose of radiation over a long period of time
Causes increased risk of cancer, cataracts an vision impairment degenerative cardiar disease


## What does it Cost?

- No costing exists for current initiative
- In 1989 President G.H.W. Bush asked for a NASA estimate
- Total overall cost was \$500 billion in 1991 dollars
- NASA Baseline budget was assumed to \$15B in 1991 dollars -- \$24B today \$ (actual budget \$18B)

|  | hitial Capability |  | Emplacement and Operations |  | Totals* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Lunar | \$* | FY | \$* | FY |  |
|  | 98 | $\begin{aligned} & 1991- \\ & 2004 \end{aligned}$ | 137 | $\begin{aligned} & 2005- \\ & 2025 \end{aligned}$ | 235 |
| Mars | 160 | $\begin{aligned} & 1991- \\ & 2016 \end{aligned}$ | 76 | $\begin{aligned} & 2017- \\ & 2025 \end{aligned}$ | 236 |
| Totals | 258 |  | 213 |  | 471 |




## Phobos Trajectories and Times of Flight for Different Force Inputs (Net Force)

Trajectories on Phobos Assuming 45 deg. Initial Velocity Vectors w/ Varying Net Force Inputs \& 650 lbs Crewmember (suited w/ Jetpack)


Trajectories on Phobos Assuming 45 deg. Initial Velocity Vectors w/ Varying Magnitudes


## Situational Awareness and Decision Making

- Communication and recovery times are longer than any previous experience
- Communications bandwidth is a factor of 100 less than ISS

| Mission | Communications <br> Bandwidth | Communications <br> latency time |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Deep Space Hab | $<2$ Mbps (DSN) | 15 to 45 minutes |
| Apollo / Orion | $<2$ Mbps (DSN) | $1-2$ seconds |
| ISS | $300-800$ Mbps <br> (TDRS) | Real-time |

- Power Is Most Critical System On Board Vehicle
- Every system on the vehicle needs power
- System will need a high level of availability
- System will need to operate autonomously for long periods of time

