

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board

Fall Meeting

**Dr. Prasun Desai, Acting Associate Administrator**

NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate

October 2023



# Space Technology Portfolio

## EARLY STAGE INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Early Stage Innovation
  - Space Tech Research Grants
  - Center Innovation Fund
  - Early Career Initiative
  - Prizes, Challenges & Crowdsourcing
  - NASA Innovation Advanced Concepts
- Technology Transfer

## SBIR/STTR PROGRAMS

- Small Business Innovation Research
- Small Business Technology Transfer

## TECHNOLOGY MATURATION

- Game Changing Development
- Lunar Surface Innovation Initiative

## TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

- Technology Demonstration Missions
- Small Spacecraft Technology
- Flight Opportunities

Technology Drives Exploration

LOW

MID

Technology Readiness Level

HIGH



# Tech Highlights

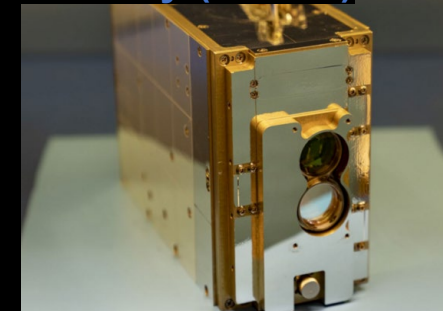
Bernard Kutter LOFTID



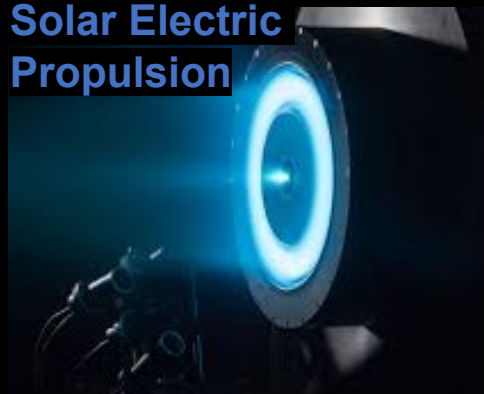
CAPSTONE



TeraByte Infrared Delivery (TBIRD)



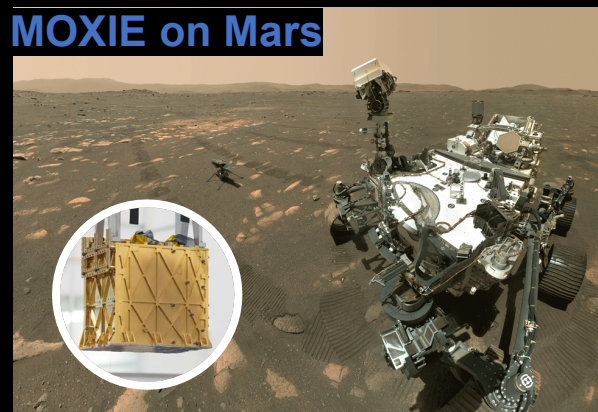
Solar Electric Propulsion



ROSA Infusion



MOXIE on Mars



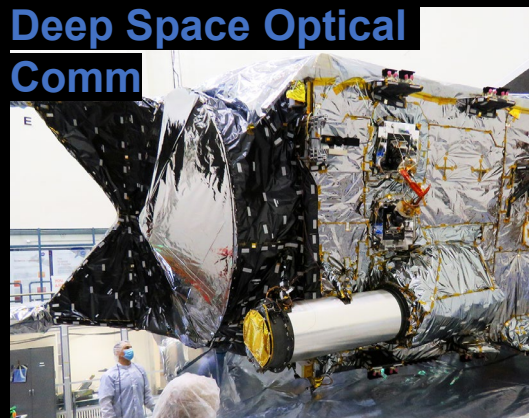
TALOS Thrusters



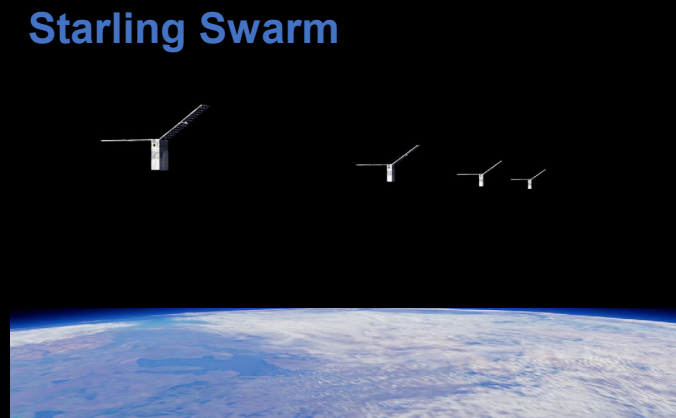
DRACO Agreement



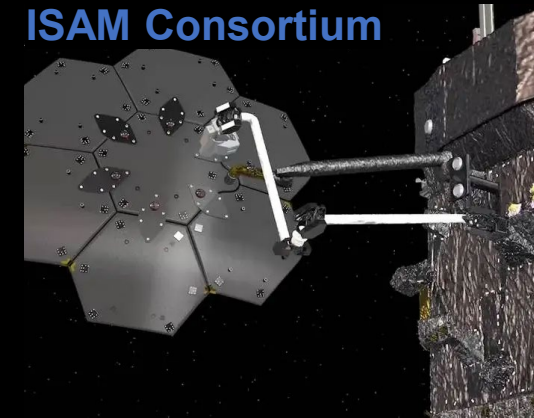
Deep Space Optical Comm



Starling Swarm



ISAM Consortium





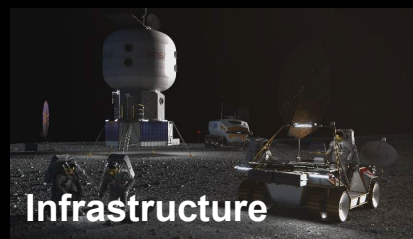
# STMD Investment Aligned to Agency Goals

## NASA Strategic Plan





### 3.1 Innovate and advance transformational space technologies

Develop revolutionary, high-payoff space technologies driven by diverse ideas to transform NASA missions and ensure American leadership in the space economy

## Moon to Mars Blueprint Objectives








## STMD Strategic Framework

Lead	Threats	Outcomes	Primary Capabilities
		<b>Transforming Space Missions</b>	
<b>Ensuring American global leadership in Space Technology</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop nuclear technologies enabling fast response capability</li><li>Develop cryogenic storage, transport, and fluid management technologies for surface and in-space applications</li><li>Develop advanced propulsion technologies that enable future interstellar exploration missions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nuclear Systems</li><li>Cryogenic Fluid Management</li><li>Advanced Propulsion</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enable Lunar/Mars global access with 720 payloads to support human missions</li><li>Enable science missions, enabling emerging planetary science and exploration on planetary bodies</li><li>Develop technologies to land payloads within 10 meters accuracy and avoid landing hazards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advanced Power</li><li>In-Situ Resource Utilization</li><li>Advanced Thermal</li><li>Advanced Materials, Structures, &amp; Construction</li><li>Advanced Habitation Systems</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop exploration technologies and enable a robust space economy with supporting utilities and commodities</li><li>Sustainable power sources and other surface utilities to enable continuous lunar and Mars surface operations</li><li>Scalable O<sub>2</sub> production/utilization capabilities including sustainable connections on the lunar &amp; Mars surfaces</li><li>Technologies that enable sustaining the economic lunar and Mars environments</li><li>Autonomous operation, construction &amp; staffing capabilities, supporting landing payloads and habitation building and living in deep space</li><li>Enable long duration human exploration missions with the Advanced Habitation System technologies (see the STMD Strategic Framework)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advanced Power</li><li>In-Situ Resource Utilization</li><li>Advanced Thermal</li><li>Advanced Materials, Structures, &amp; Construction</li><li>Advanced Habitation Systems</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop next generation high performance computing, communications, and navigation</li><li>Develop advanced robotics and spacecraft autonomy technologies to enable and augment interstellar exploration missions</li><li>Develop technologies supporting emerging space industries including Satellite Servicing &amp; Assembly, Space-based Manufacturing, and Small Spacecraft Technologies</li><li>Develop vehicle platform technologies supporting new discoveries</li><li>Develop technologies for surface instrumentation supporting new discoveries (see the STMD Strategic Framework)</li><li>Develop transformative technologies that enable future NASA or commercial missions and discoveries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advanced Avionics Systems</li><li>Advanced Communications &amp; Navigation</li><li>Advanced Robotics</li><li>Autonomous Systems</li><li>Satellite Servicing &amp; Assembly</li><li>Advanced Manufacturing</li><li>Small Spacecraft</li><li>Robotics, Precision Operations &amp; Control</li><li>Sensor &amp; Instrumentation</li></ul>

Draws from Artemis architecture, science decadal, and industry identifying technology gaps for investment to develop needed capabilities to support NASA missions and commercial space sector

# STMD Strategic Framework

*STMD rapidly develops, demonstrates, and transfers revolutionary, high pay-off space technologies, driven by diverse ideas*

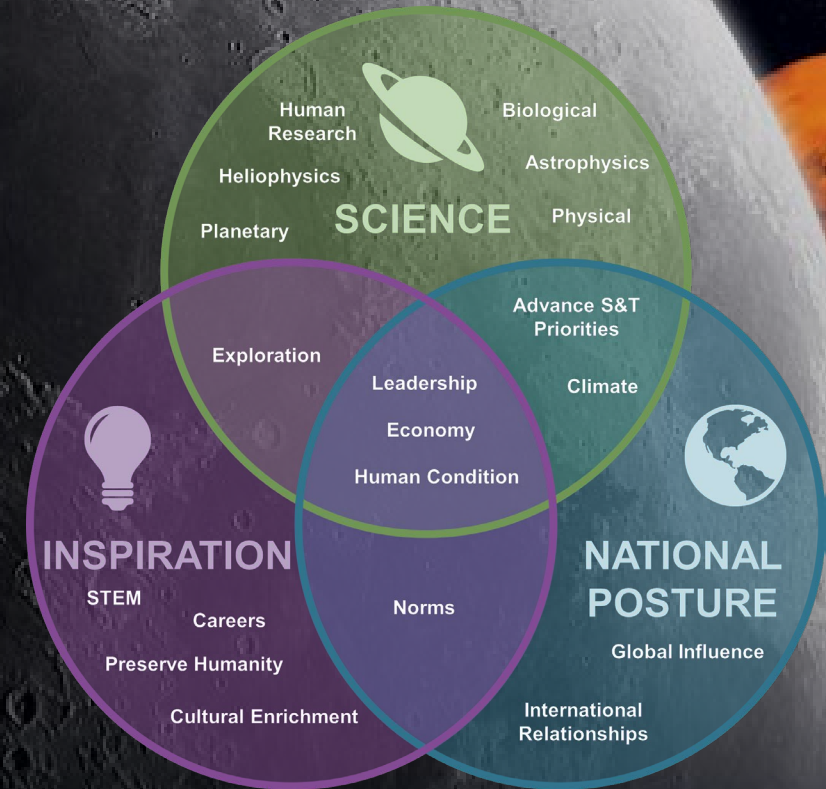
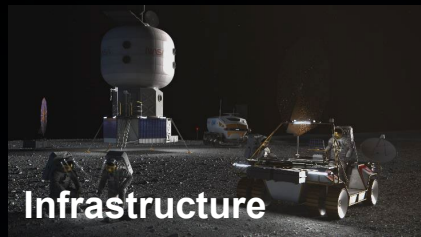
Lead	Thrusts	Outcomes	Primary Capabilities
 <p><b>Ensuring American global leadership in Space Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance US space technology innovation and competitiveness in a global context</li> <li>• Encourage technology driven economic growth with an emphasis on the expanding space economy</li> <li>• Inspire and develop a diverse and powerful US aerospace technology community</li> </ul>	<b>Transforming Space Missions</b>		
	 <p><b>Go</b> Rapid, Safe, and Efficient Space Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop nuclear technologies enabling fast in-space transits.</li> <li>• Develop cryogenic storage, transport, and fluid management technologies for surface and in-space applications.</li> <li>• Develop advanced propulsion technologies that enable future science/exploration missions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuclear Systems</li> <li>• Cryogenic Fluid Management</li> <li>• Advanced Propulsion</li> </ul>
	 <p><b>Land</b> Expanded Access to Diverse Surface Destinations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable Lunar/Mars global access with ~20t payloads to support human missions.</li> <li>• Enable science missions entering/transiting planetary atmospheres and landing on planetary bodies.</li> <li>• Develop technologies to land payloads within 50 meters accuracy and avoid landing hazards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry, Descent, Landing, &amp; Precision Landing</li> </ul>
	 <p><b>Live</b> Sustainable Living and Working Farther from Earth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop exploration technologies and enable a vibrant space economy with supporting utilities and commodities               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable power sources and other surface utilities to enable continuous lunar and Mars surface operations.</li> <li>• Scalable ISRU production/utilization capabilities including sustainable commodities on the lunar &amp; Mars surface.</li> <li>• Technologies that enable surviving the extreme lunar and Mars environments.</li> <li>• Autonomous excavation, construction &amp; outfitting capabilities targeting landing pads/structures/habitable buildings utilizing in situ resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Enable long duration human exploration missions with Advanced Habitation System technologies. [Low TRL STMD; Mid-High TRL SOMD/ESDMD]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Power</li> <li>• In-Situ Resource Utilization</li> <li>• Advanced Thermal</li> <li>• Advanced Materials, Structures, &amp; Construction</li> <li>• Advanced Habitation Systems</li> </ul>
	 <p><b>Explore</b> Transformative Missions and Discoveries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop next generation high performance computing, communications, and navigation.</li> <li>• Develop advanced robotics and spacecraft autonomy technologies to enable and augment science/exploration missions.</li> <li>• Develop technologies supporting emerging space industries including: Satellite Servicing &amp; Assembly, In Space/Surface Manufacturing, and Small Spacecraft technologies.</li> <li>• Develop vehicle platform technologies supporting new discoveries.</li> <li>• Develop technologies for science instrumentation supporting new discoveries. [Low TRL STMD/Mid-High TRL SMD. SMD funds mission specific instrumentation (TRL 1-9)]</li> <li>• Develop transformative technologies that enable future NASA or commercial missions and discoveries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Avionics Systems</li> <li>• Advanced Communications &amp; Navigation</li> <li>• Advanced Robotics</li> <li>• Autonomous Systems</li> <li>• Satellite Servicing &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Advanced Manufacturing</li> <li>• Small Spacecraft</li> <li>• Rendezvous, Proximity Operations &amp; Capture</li> <li>• Sensor &amp; Instrumentation</li> </ul>



# Moon-to-Mars Blueprint Objectives



## Moon to Mars Blueprint Objectives





# Enabling Key Moon-to-Mars Lunar Infrastructure Objectives



LI-1<sup>L</sup>: Develop an incremental **lunar power**  
**MI-1<sup>M</sup>** generation and distribution system that is evolvable to support continuous robotic/human operation and is capable of scaling to global power utilization and industrial power levels.



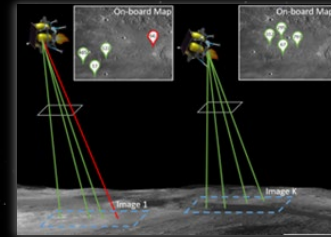
LI-2<sup>L</sup>: Develop a lunar surface, orbital, and Moon-to-Earth **communications** architecture capable of scaling to support long term science, exploration, and industrial needs.



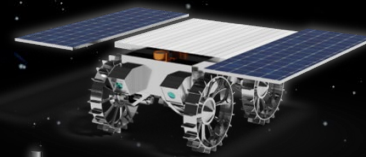
LI-3<sup>L</sup>: Develop a lunar **position, navigation and timing** architecture capable of scaling to support long term science, exploration, and industrial needs.



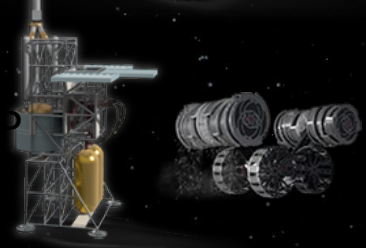
LI-4<sup>L</sup>: Demonstrate **advanced manufacturing and autonomous construction** capabilities in support of continuous human lunar presence and a robust lunar economy.



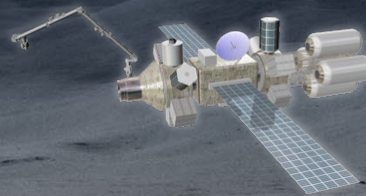
LI-5<sup>L</sup>: Demonstrate **precision landing** capabilities in support of continuous human lunar presence and a robust lunar economy.



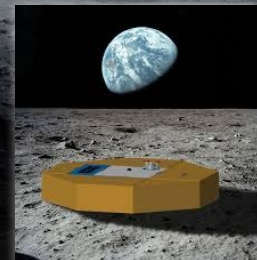
LI-6<sup>L</sup>: Demonstrate local, regional, and global **surface** transportation and **mobility** capabilities in support of continuous human lunar presence and a robust lunar economy.



LI-7<sup>L</sup>: Demonstrate industrial scale **ISRU** capabilities **MI-4<sup>M</sup>** in support of continuous human lunar presence and a robust lunar economy.



LI-8<sup>L</sup>: Demonstrate technologies supporting cislunar orbital/surface depots, **construction and manufacturing** maximizing the use of in-situ resources, and support systems needed for continuous human/robotic presence.



LI-9<sup>L</sup>: Develop **environmental monitoring**, situational awareness, and early warning capabilities to support a resilient, continuous human/robotic lunar presence.

[www.nasa.gov/specials/calliefirst](http://www.nasa.gov/specials/calliefirst)

*First Woman Issue No. 2*  
will be released soon

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