




National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

TOGETHER We Explore

Dr. Thomas H. Zurbuchen

Associate Administrator

NASA Science Mission Directorate

 @Dr_ThomasZ

July 16, 2021



NASA's Key Science Themes

PROTECT & IMPROVE
LIFE ON EARTH &
IN SPACE

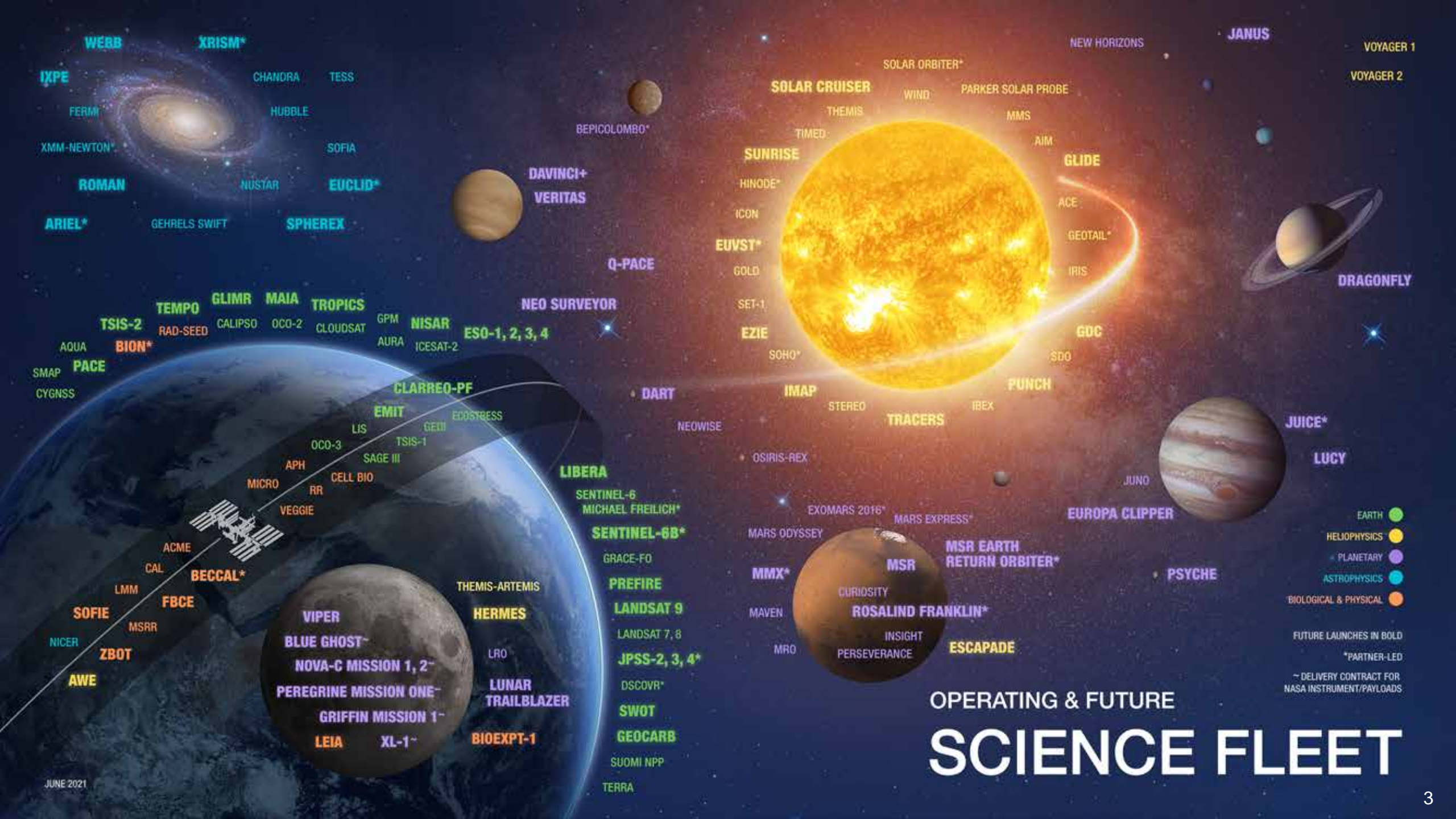


SEARCH FOR LIFE
ELSEWHERE



DISCOVER SECRETS
OF THE UNIVERSE





SCIENCE 2020-2024: A Vision for Scientific Excellence

VISION

Lead a globally interconnected program of scientific discovery that encourages innovation, positively impacts people's lives, and is a source of inspiration

MISSION

Discover the secrets of the universe

Search for life elsewhere

Protect and improve life on Earth and in Space

VALUES

Excellence

Inclusion

Leadership

Integrity

Teamwork

Safety

PRIORITIES

Exploration and Scientific Discovery

Innovation

Interconnectivity and Partnerships

Inspiration



What is BPS Research Success?

This research has three dimensions of success, which are not exclusive of each other and together lead to program excellence:

1. Novel insights about biology and fundamental science, including origins of life itself
2. Novel insights that fundamentally enable and/or affect human space exploration of the future
3. Novel insights that have important impacts on Earth, through medical progress, new tech, etc.



Important Considerations

- This program, like all great programs, must balance investments of multiple ingredients of different sizes from R&A, to critical mass activities, all the way to potential future space missions
- The ISS is a critical but finite resource. We want to utilize to its fullest extent; however, we have new platforms and modalities (lunar, gateway, commercial suborbital human tended or otherwise, novel astronaut models that are arising, etc.) that should be also considered
- Plus, we're always excited to see what successes can be created through collaborations with other SMD disciplines

A composite image featuring a person standing on a rocky peak, an eagle in flight, a crescent moon, and a comet against a starry night sky.

Decadal Surveys

Decadals represent the broad consensus and aspirations of the nation's scientific communities and guide SMD's scientific pursuits

- Enables us to go beyond our limits and transform our understanding of what is required
- Provides the balance between ambitions and what's possible
- Drives us toward transformative science, yielding the greatest impact for humanity
- Encourages the U.S. to pioneer and lead the world in scientific discovery. U.S. does not see leadership and partnership as contradiction

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



with us COME