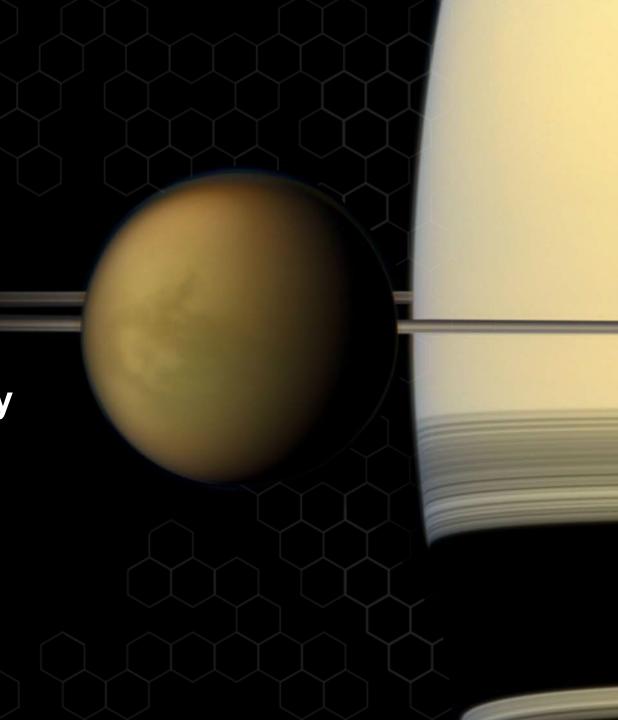


A relocatable lander to explore Titan's prebiotic chemistry and habitability

Planetary Protection for Dragonfly

Alexandra Pontefract, Assistant Project Scientist JHU Applied Physics Laboratory

Committee on Planetary Protection April 2nd, 2025



Dragonfly

Flights of exploration across Saturn's moon

Key Dates:

- NET July 2028: Dragonfly Launches
- NET Dec 2034: Dragonfly arrives at

Titan

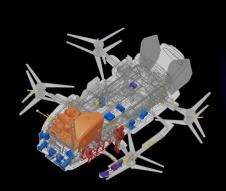
Prebiotic Chemistry: Analyze chemical components and processes at work that produce biologically relevant compounds.

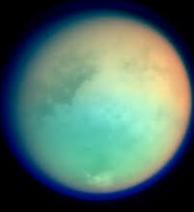
Habitable Environments: Measure atmospheric conditions, identify methane reservoirs, constrain processes which mix organics with liquid water.

Biosignatures: Search for chemical evidence of water- or hydrocarbon-based life.



- DrACO: Drill for Acquisition of Complex Organics Honeybee
- DraGNS: Gamma-ray and Neutron Spectrometer APL, LLNL
- DraGMet: Geophysics & Meteorology APL, JAXA
- DragonCam: Camera Suite MSSS, APL









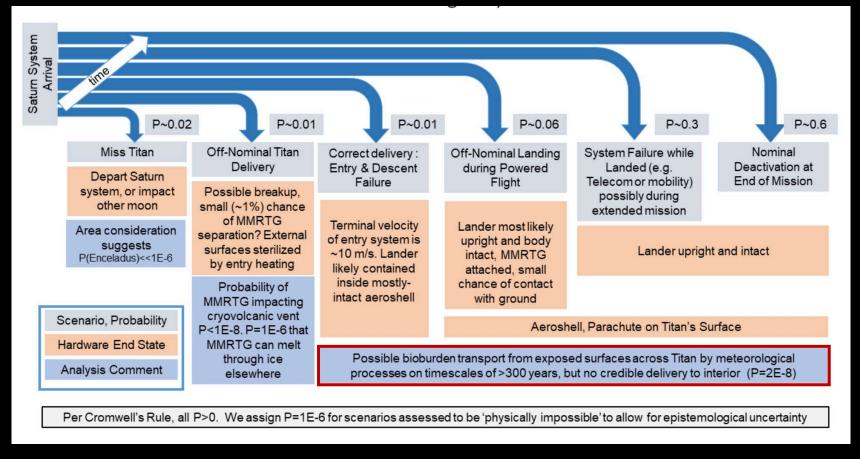
Category II Mission (Assigned by NASA SMD 2022)

Titan is a Category II* target





Probabilistic Assessment of Dragonfly Hardware End-States

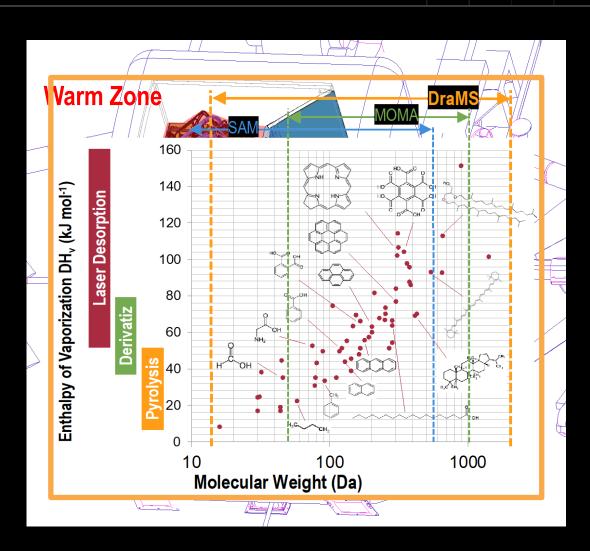


Lorenz et al. 2022



DraMS Instrument Drives Cleanliness Requirements





- Due to the sensitivity of the DraMS (Dragonfly Mass Spectrometer) instrument, Dragonfly must have stringent contamination requirements (not driven by planetary protection):
 - Level 1 Science Requirement: Inventory prebiotically relevant molecules and potential biosignatures down to 500 ppbw.
 - Contamination requirement set at <50 ppbw for any single organic compound, <1 ppmw for total allowable terrestrial contamination (for sample intimate surfaces).
- DraMS cleaned and assembled to a level approaching ISO 5 (Class 100 - 3,520 particles/m³)
- Entirety of Dragonfly assembled in an ISO 8 (Class 100,000) clean room at APL
- Handbook updates do not affect Dragonfly's Planetary Protection plan.

