



Gateway, Artemis and Other Opportunities for Biological Research in Deep Space Over the Next Decade

Jeffrey D. Smith, Ph.D.

Deputy Manager (Acting) NASA
Deep Space Logistics

**Decadal Survey on Biological and
Physical Sciences Research in
Space 2023-2032: Biological
Sciences Panel**

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The Artemis Program

Artemis is the first step in the next era of human exploration

Together with commercial and international partners, NASA will establish a sustainable presence on the Moon to prepare for missions to Mars

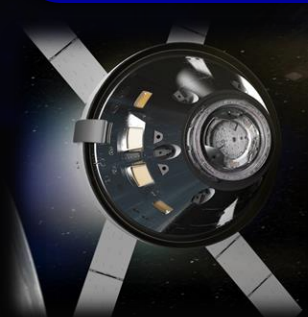
<https://www.nasa.gov/artemisprogram>



Brings cross-cutting program elements together into one mission architecture

The primary mission objective of Artemis **over the next decade** is captured in the Program's unofficial motto:

**Boots!
On the Moon**



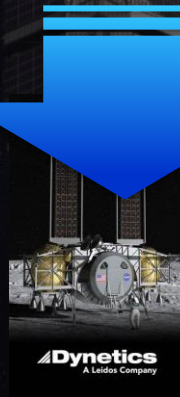
Orion



SLS



Gateway



Dynamics
A Lockheed Company



SPACEX



NATIONAL TEAM



LSP



CLPS



Artemis and Other NASA Missions Over the Decade

Can, and Will, Deliver Crew and Payloads to Deep Space Destinations:

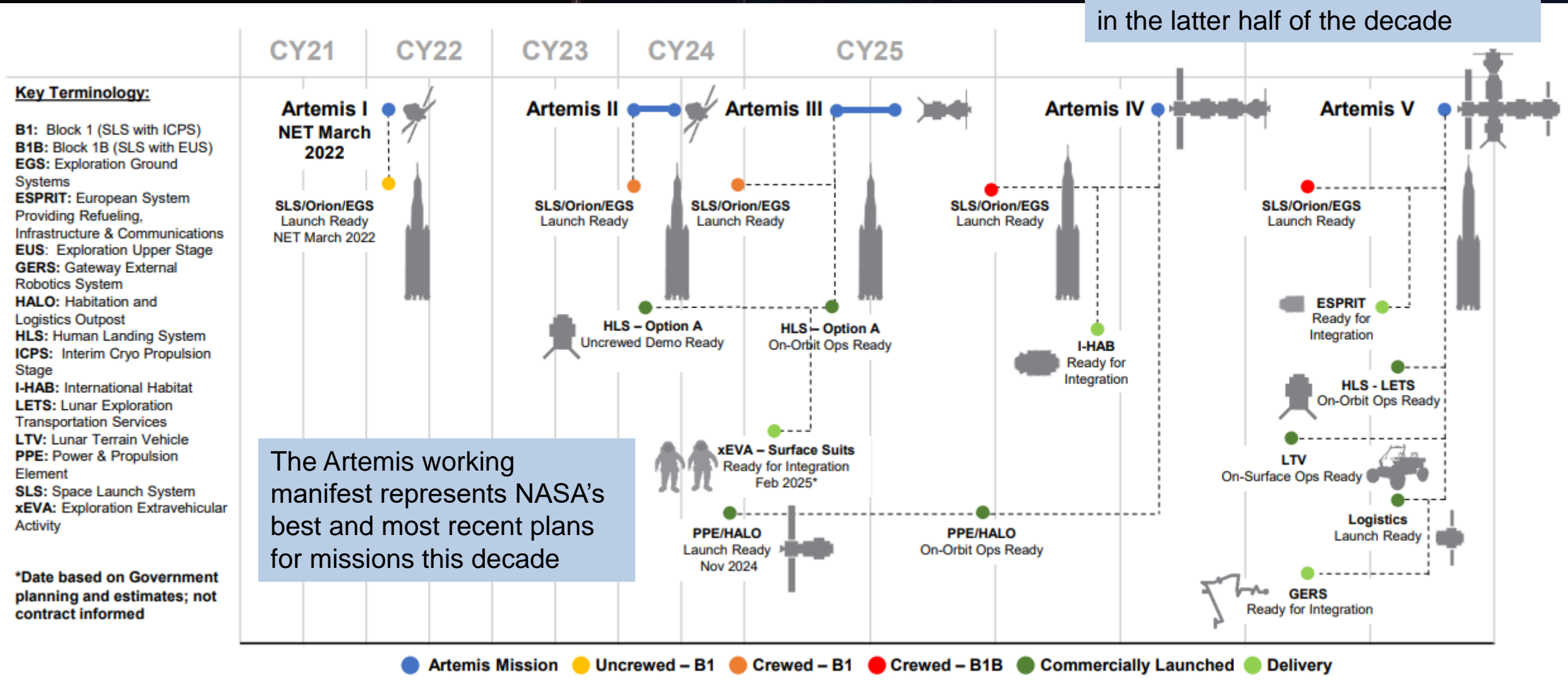
Which missions offer real opportunities for Biological Research beyond LEO, and when will they fly?

- **SLS/Orion**: starting with Artemis I, 2022 with subsequent crewed missions about once per year
- **Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS)**: six missions awarded to-date for small lunar landers starting in 2022/2023
- **Gateway**: commercial launch of first modules planned in 2024 with arrival to lunar orbit in 2025
- **Deep Space Logistics (DSL)**: large cargo supply missions supporting Gateway and Artemis with launch and delivery planned to support each crewed mission to the Gateway
- **Human Lander System (HLS)**: lunar landing demonstration mission (Option A) using SpaceX Starship on Artemis III, currently planned in 2025
- **Launch Services Program**: multiple missions planned to support Artemis and other science mission objectives with possible rideshare opportunities beyond LEO
- **Other Commercial or International**: missions may become available; schedule uncertain



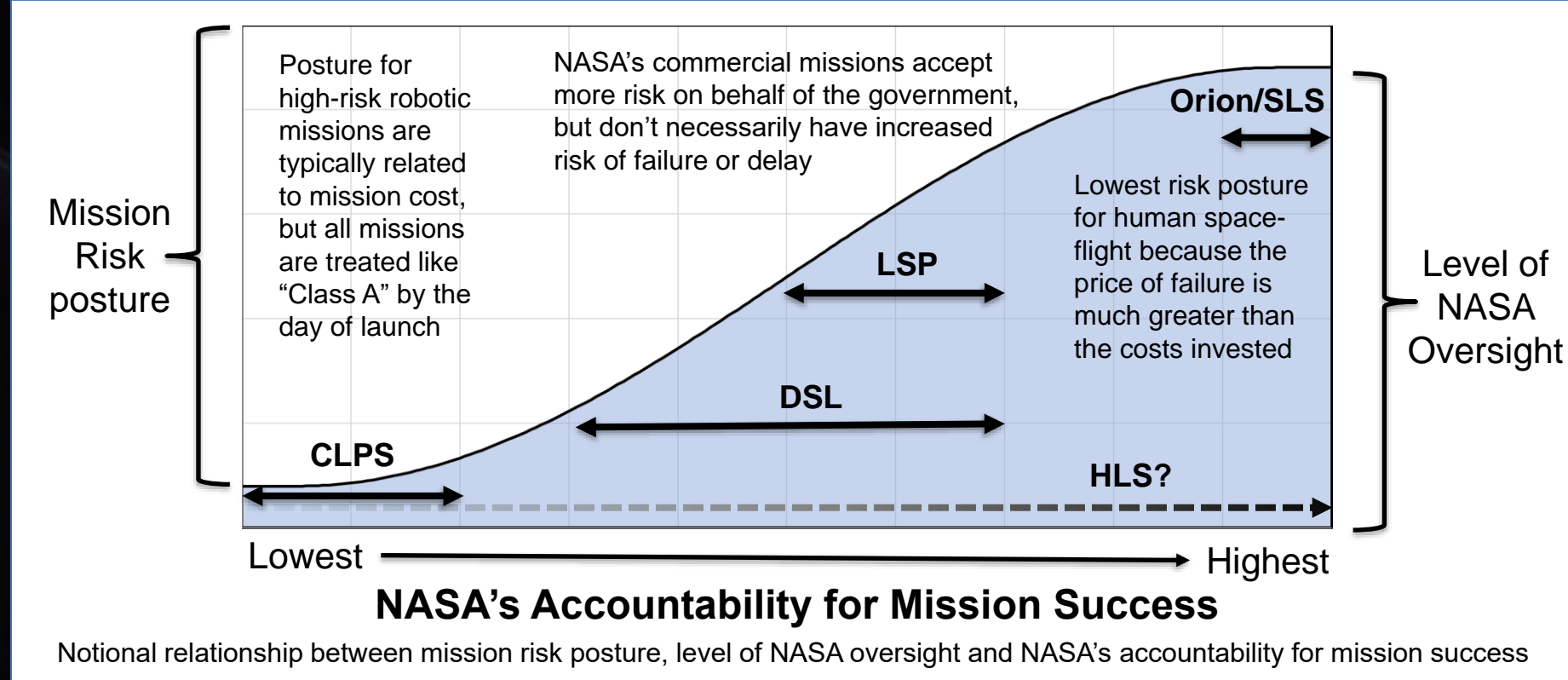
Artemis I – V: Working Manifest for Technical Integration

Launch dates become less certain in the latter half of the decade





Launch uncertainty depends a lot on mission risk posture



- Many factors are at play when considering mission risk posture (e.g. use of flight heritage systems; new technology development; industry's risk of losing future business)
- Launch vehicle, spacecraft and payload can each have a different risk posture
- Understanding overall mission risk posture provides valuable insight when predicting launch dates



Artemis I-V: Landing Humans On the Moon

Lunar Reconnaissance
Orbiter: Continued
surface and landing
site investigation

Artemis I: First
human spacecraft
to the Moon in the
21st century

Artemis II: First humans
to orbit the Moon and
rendezvous in deep space
in the 21st century

Gateway begins science operations
with launch of Power and Propulsion
Element and Habitation and
Logistics Outpost

Artemis III-V: Deep space crew missions;
cislunar buildup and initial crew
demonstration landing with Human
Landing System

Early South Pole Robotic Landings
*Science and technology payloads delivered by
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Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover
First mobility-enhanced lunar volatiles survey

*Uncrewed HLS
Demonstration*

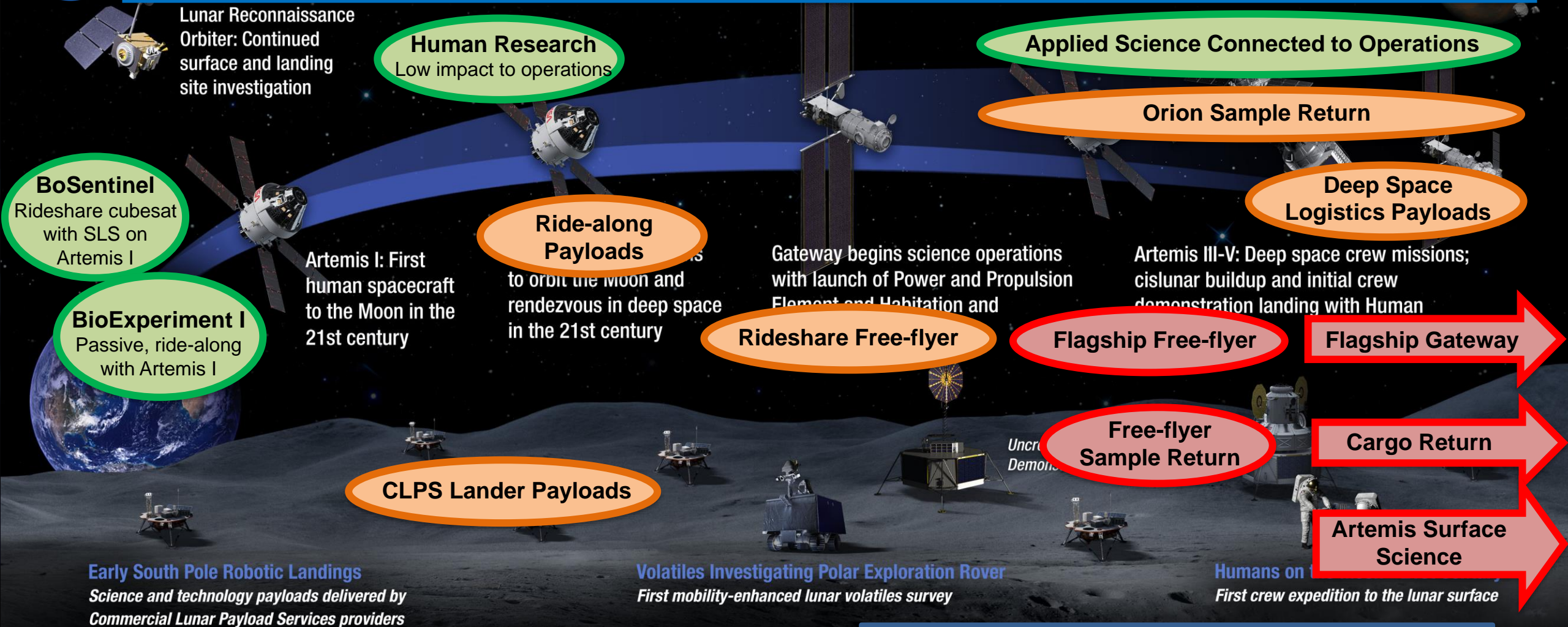
Humans on the Moon - 21st Century
First crew expedition to the lunar surface

Lunar South Pole Target Site



Artemis I-V: Landing Humans On the Moon

And Opportunities for Biological Research in Deep Space Over the Next Decade



Lunar South Pole Target Site

Opportunities for Biological Research



Planned



Probable



Possible



Planned Missions Artemis I - V

Build on LEO Science and Capabilities; Offer Collaboration with Operations

Artemis I: Biological and Physical Sciences

BioSentinel



Use yeast as a biosensor to evaluate the effects of ambient space radiation on DNA.

Bio-Experiment 1



Frederica Brandizzi, Ph.D., Michigan State University
Arabidopsis thaliana plants): *Life Beyond Earth: Effect of Space Flight on Seeds with Improved Nutritional Value*

Timothy Hammond, M.D., Ph.D., Institute for Medical Research, Inc.
Algae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*): *Fuel to Mars*

Zheng Wang, Ph.D., Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.
Fungi *Aspergillus niger*): *Investigating the Roles of Melanin and DNA Repair on Adaptation and Survivability of Fungi in Deep Space*

Luis Zea, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Boulder
Yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*): *Multi-Generational Genome-Wide Yeast Fitness Profiling Beyond and Below Earth's Van Allen Belts*

Payload Developer/Project Science – NASA Kennedy Space Center

Artemis II-IV: Human Research Program

Orion/Artemis II

1. Dry Saliva Books
2. Crew/Team Perf. Measures
3. Actigraphy

Operations Research

- Cabin imagery system
- Flywheel exercise device collaborations
- Food System Trade Study
- Microbial Monitoring
- Acceleration requirements
- Emergency CO₂ limits
- In-suit Nutrition Requirements

Gateway/Artemis IV

1. Crew/Team Perf Measures
2. Actigraphy, Cognition, Sleep Questionnaires
3. Dry Saliva Books
4. Blood Analysis (TBD)
5. Ultrasound
6. Pharm Samples
7. Ophthalmic Measurements
8. IN-SITU (ESA/ASI led)
9. Thermosensor (ESA/DLR led)
10. TIME (ESA led)
11. EveryWear application (ESA/CNES led)

Planned Payloads Offer Insight for the Future

- **Non-interference with Primary Artemis Mission:** payloads are small and don't need a lot of upmass that could compete with other, higher priority, flight hardware needed for Artemis
- **Low/No Mission Resources Required:** payloads don't require power or data connections and only use crew in an unobtrusive way as part of their normal operational workload
- **In-Situ Data Collection/Almost No Downmass:** science data is collected in space and transmitted to Earth; downmass on Orion is very limited
- **Years in the making:** new science on new vehicles with new payload hardware has taken years to integrate with a new Artemis program

Artemis Goal for HRP: advance knowledge to support safe, productive human space travel, and perform systems testing to reduce risks for future human exploration



Probable Missions Artemis II - V

Offer a continuation of current/planned science and mission capabilities:

- **Ride-along Payloads:** a limited number of payloads, similar in size, scope and capabilities with Bio-Experiment 1 and/or HRP Early Artemis Mission Payloads are expected on each Orion flight; BPS and HRP are actively engaged in science definition and flight manifest for these payloads
- **CLPS Lander Payloads:** BPS is engaged in science and flight payload mission definition and development for future CLPS landers (LEIA and PRISM solicitations)
- **Rideshare Free-flyer:** smallsat/cubesat mission(s) that take advantage of heritage flight hardware (such as BioSentinel) are being considered by BPS for Beyond LEO Free-flyer Platforms including rideshare opportunities with SLS or with other commercial NASA launches such as LSP
- **Orion Sample Return:** science payloads on Orion, Gateway and early HLS landers only have a small amount of downmass available on Orion which will focus primarily on return of lunar surface samples during early Artemis missions

If they are to fly in the next decade, these mission opportunities will be reliant on heritage flight hardware/methods and subject to similar mission constraints as those that are currently planned

- Non-interference with primary Artemis mission
- In-Situ Data Collection/Almost No Downmass
- Low/No mission resources required
- Years needed to develop and integrate new science and flight hardware capabilities



Probable Missions Artemis IV – V

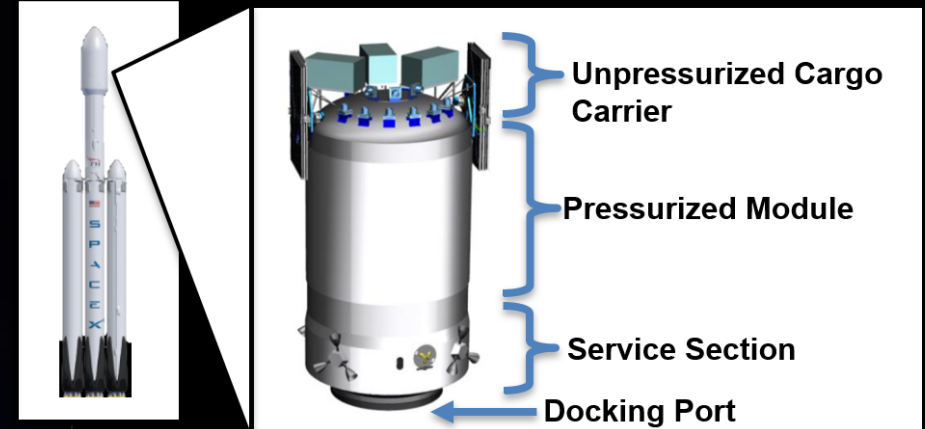
Opportunities for Deep Space Logistics Payloads



Launch Vehicle: Falcon Heavy
Space Vehicle: Dragon XL

- SpaceX selected as the first U.S. commercial provider under the Deep Space Logistics Services contract to deliver cargo, experiments, and other supplies to the agency's Gateway in lunar orbit
- Multiple supply missions planned in which the cargo spacecraft will stay at the Gateway for six to 12 months at a time
 - Cargo and Payload Delivery
 - Trash removal
 - Automated RPOD (docking/undocking)

SPACEX System Overview



System Performance to NRHO

Total Cargo Delivery	> 5,000 kg
Unpressurized Cargo Delivery	> 1,000 kg
Total Pressurized Volume	> 50 m ³
Volume Available for Unpress. Cargo	> 14 m ³
Late Load for Press. Cargo	< L-7 days
Payload Power	≥ 1.8 kW
Payload up/downlink	Once per day
Payload Interfaces: Gateway and ISS Heritage Compatibility	



Probable Missions Artemis IV – V

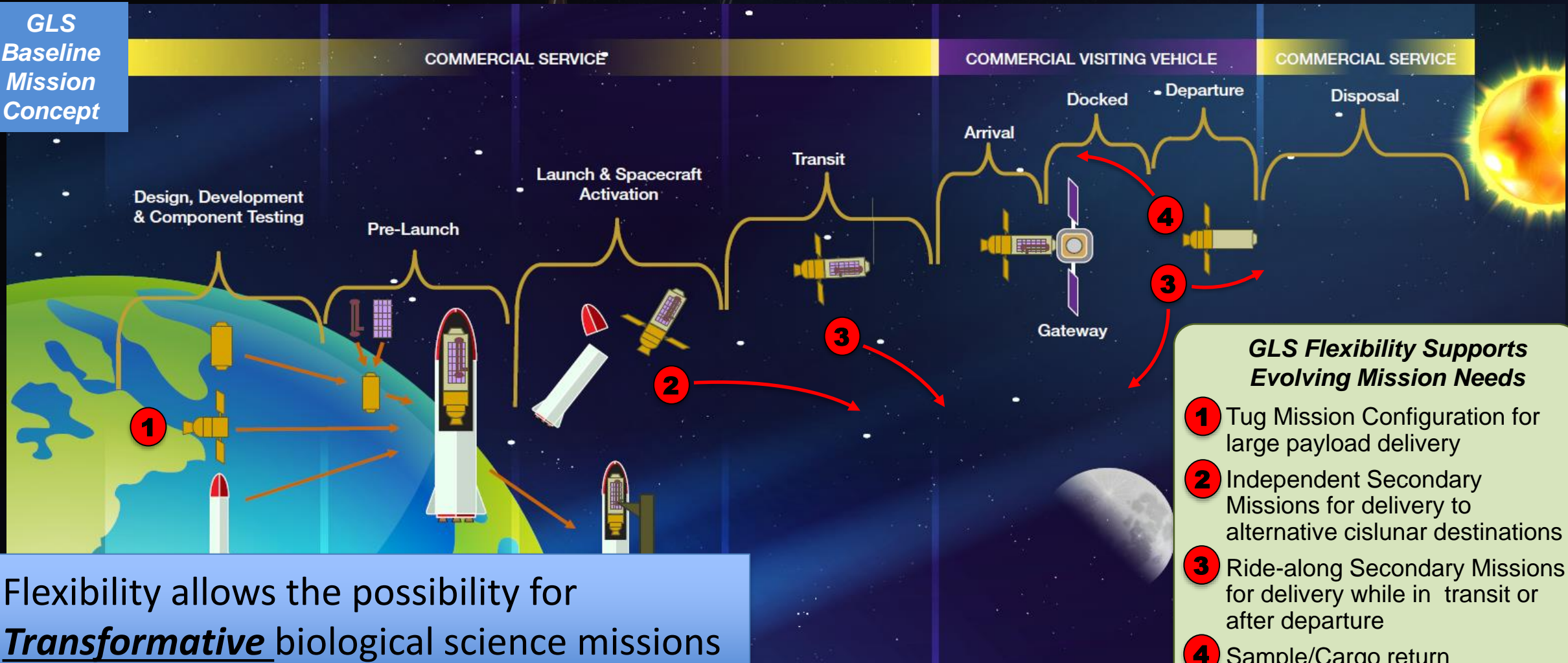
Opportunities for Deep Space Logistics Payloads

- **DSL missions will have significant science payload capabilities available**
 - External payloads may be compatible with CSA EVR system, for transfer to Gateway, or permanently mounted on the Logistics Vehicle
 - During transit, payloads may be powered or passive, hard-mounted or soft-stowed
 - After docking, payloads may be transferred to Gateway or remain on the Logistics Vehicle
 - Remote operation, uplink and downlink are available for payloads during transit and while docked during crewed and uncrewed periods
 - Payloads may operate on the Logistics Vehicle after departure, which may include secondary mission(s) to other destination(s)
- **Opportunities for DSL science payloads are expected to be limited for early missions**
 - Some “Utilization” upmass will be planned for each mission; but the amount is highly dependent on other operational needs that will take priority for Boots on the Moon
 - Crew time for tending to science will be limited and highly dependent on other needs that take priority for Boots on the Moon



Deep Space Logistics has a Flexible Delivery Architecture to Meet Evolving Gateway and Artemis Mission Needs

GLS
Baseline
Mission
Concept



Flexibility allows the possibility for **Transformative** biological science missions in deep space over the next decade

GLS Flexibility Supports Evolving Mission Needs

- 1 Tug Mission Configuration for large payload delivery
- 2 Independent Secondary Missions for delivery to alternative cislunar destinations
- 3 Ride-along Secondary Missions for delivery while in transit or after departure
- 4 Sample/Cargo return



Possible Missions Artemis IV and out

Artemis: Landing Humans On the Moon

Opportunities for Transformative Biological Science in Deep Space

Lunar Reconnaissance
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surface and landing
site investigation

Artemis I: First
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to the Moon in the
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Artemis II: First humans
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Gateway begins science operations
with launch of Power and Propulsion
Element and Habitation and
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Artemis III-V: Deep space crew missions;
cislunar buildup and initial crew
demonstration landing with Human

Flagship Free-flyer

Flagship Gateway

Free-flyer
Sample Return

Cargo Return

Artemis Surface
Science

Early South Pole Robotic Landings
Science and technology payloads delivered by
Commercial Lunar Payload Services providers

Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover
First mobility-enhanced lunar volatiles survey

Humans on the Moon
First crew expedition to the lunar surface

Lunar South Pole Target Site

Opportunities for Biological Research



Planned



Probable



Possible



Past Examples of Transformative Biological Science in Space:

Flagship missions with big science goals and big mission commitments (mostly)

Free-flyers

Biosatellite (1967-69)



Three missions (1967-69) dedicated to biological research in LEO, ranging from 8-30 days

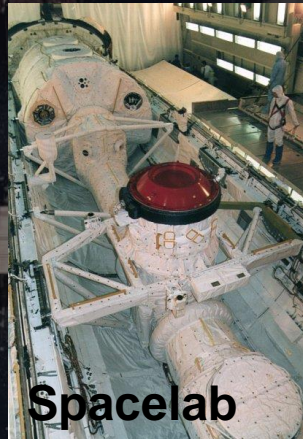
Bion M-1 & M-2 (2013 & 2022)



Collaborative Missions with the Russian Space Agency and the Russian Institute for Biomedical Problems (IMBP). Bion M-1 flew in 2013 and M-2 is planned for 2022. Teams of US scientists work with IMBP scientists

Shuttle

Neurolab (1998)



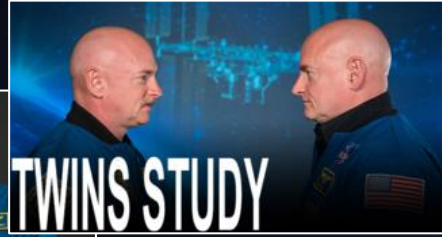
Two-week mission (STS-90) with the ESA Spacelab, dedicated to microgravity research of the nervous system. Involved 26 experiments, teams of scientists and international cooperation with Europe, Japan, and Canada.

GeneLab (2013-)



Open Science for Life in Space. Data repository includes over 350 omics-focused data sets from multiple spaceflight and related ground-based research.

ISS



(2015-16)

Astronaut Scott Kelly and Cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko performed collaborative investigations using Standard Measures in space, while Scott's twin brother, Mark, participated in omics-focused research to evaluate changes between ground and flight

Veg-01 (2015)



Astronauts eat lettuce grown in space. Veggie 01 experiment: opening a new avenue of plant research in space



Benefits and Challenges for Flagship and Missions Of Opportunity (MOO)

	Flagship Mission		Mission of Opportunity
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High mission momentum• High visibility inside NASA and out• High control as primary mission• High participation• High science impact• High potential for partnerships to leverage investment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adaptable to changing mission• Rapid readiness• Low impact to primary mission (power, mass, volume, crew time, integration...)• Affordable cost
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High cost• Long lead time• High complexity & Management		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dependence on primary mission• Low priority to primary mission• Potential long wait time to execute



Possible Missions Artemis IV and out

Deep Space Free-flyers

Free-flyer and Reentry Capabilities Have Matured Over the Last Decade

Commercial
Cargo & Crew
for ISS



DRAGON
CREW & CARGO

STARLINER

DREAMCHASER

- Returning >1 mt payload/mission
- Reentry at 7.6 km/sec

Deep Space
Return



STARDUST
OSIRIS-REX (2023)

GENESIS

ORION

- Returning samples and crew
- Reentry at 11+ km/sec

Government-funded and Commercially-developed Systems can be adapted to support dedicated BPS mission objectives

**Flagship
Free-flyer**

A Deep Space Flagship Free-flyer Mission is possible for Biological Science within the next Decade

- Single orbit, similar to Artemis I-II
- 2-4 week duration
- DSL is an option to provide

**Free-flyer
Sample Return**

Sample return from Gateway to augment Orion is possible for Biological Science within the next Decade

- Small/Medium class satellite
- Delivery to Gateway with DSL
- Return to Earth as a free-flyer

Free-flyer missions in the coming decade will set up capabilities for larger Artemis cargo return missions in the next decade

Cargo Return



Free-flyer Sample Return

Small Spacecraft Sample Return Concept to Enhance Gateway Utilization

Deep Space Logistics Gap for Gateway Sample Return:

samples returned from Artemis missions will have very high science & technology value, but sample return from Gateway will be no more than 100 kg on Orion (in contrast to thousands of kg returned from ISS each year)

Near-term Mission Solution: as Gateway operations develop and integrate with Lunar surface and CisLunar activities, small spacecraft sample return can significantly advance scientific research & technology development and provide additional returned mass capability

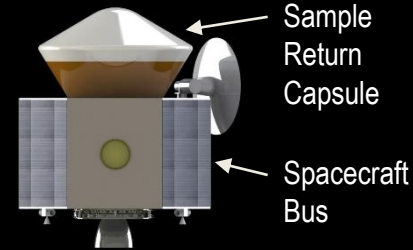
Deep Space Logistics (KSC) and NASA Ames: are partnered to explore on-demand sample return capability, and develop a plan to demonstrate and evolve Gateway sample return, engaging government and commercial partners, with the goals to

- 1) accelerate cis-Lunar commerce development,
- 2) increase downmass opportunities and
- 3) **lower the cost (\$/returned kg)** of bringing back valuable science and technology payloads from deep space

Mission CONOPS

1

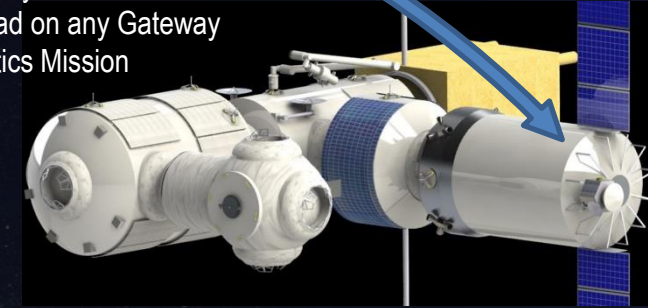
Notional Small Spacecraft
Sample Return System



DIMENSIONS: ~ 1 x 1 x 1 m
LAUNCH MASS: ~150 kg
ATTACH TO LM: following standard interfaces (e.g. XORI)

2

Launch and Delivery to Gateway as an external payload on any Gateway Logistics Mission



3

Sample transfer by external robotics

later capability may allow crew to insert samples directly through the Gateway Airlock or a pressurized hatch



4

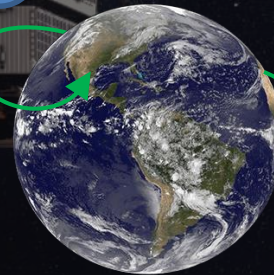
Small Spacecraft Separation after LM departure from Gateway

5

Logistics Module disposal or other secondary mission

6

Sample Return to Earth for landing and recovery



After initial demonstration (**goal to return 10kg payload**) the capability can evolve to provide higher downmass and environmental control for even the most sensitive samples



Gateway Sample Return: Possible Use Cases

- **LUNAR SURFACE:** return lunar regolith samples for scientific analysis on Earth. Temperature control would allow for return of samples containing volatile compounds. Synergy with robotic-based exploration at sites away from Artemis Base Camp (presumably the Lunar South Pole).
- **PHYSICAL SCIENCES:** return material samples that have been exposed to the deep space environment which advance exploration technology and future long-term missions into deep space (e.g- MISSE). In-space manufacturing, fluid physics, combustion, and dust mitigation could significantly benefit.
- **HUMAN RESEARCH:** return stabilized samples from crew or other model systems to understand and help mitigate the long-term effects of deep space exploration on the human body (synergistic effects of radiation, microgravity, loads, etc.). Temperature control will be necessary. Ability to maintain frozen samples would be exceptionally valuable.
- **SPACE BIOLOGY:** return stabilized samples from microbiology, cell, plant or animal research for high-throughput “omics” analysis. Temperature control will be necessary and would allow live & stabilized samples to be returned. Ability to maintain frozen samples would be exceptionally valuable.

PREPARATION FOR BASE CAMP



ROBOTIC EXPLORATION



LONG TERM EXPOSURE



IN-SPACE MANUFACTURING



HUMAN RESEARCH-
Develop best methods and technologies to support safe, productive human space travel using Gateway as a Mars Transit analogue.



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE- crew health monitoring, detailed investigations of cosmic conditions on astronauts and other organisms. Detailed 'OMICS' research to develop therapies and mitigations to long-term human exploration of deep space.



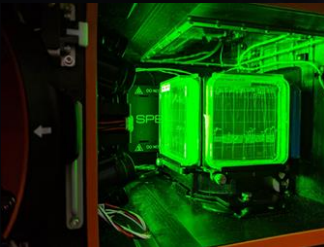
Possible Missions Beyond the Decade

Flagship Gateway and Artemis Surface Science

Opportunities for Transformative Biological Science in Deep Space

Flagship Gateway

Flagship Gateway Science

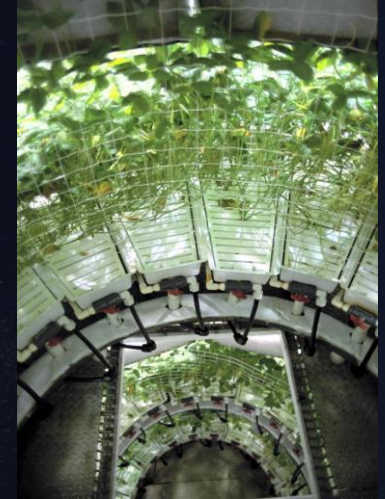
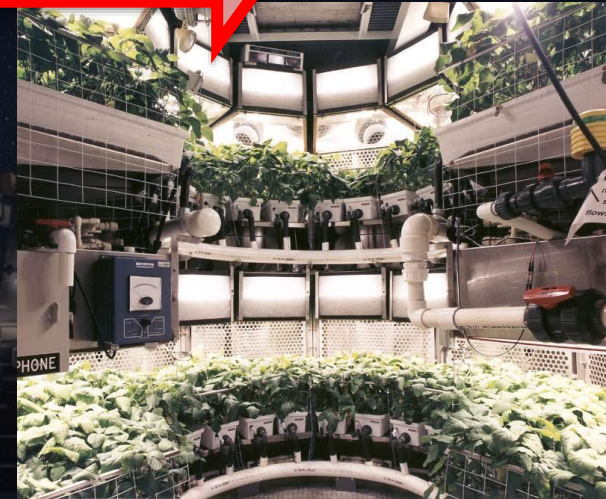


*Habitats & analytical tools
for research*

Development of payloads, facilities and equipment to support dedicated science missions at the **Gateway or Lunar surface**

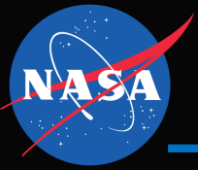
Artemis Surface Science

Growing Plants on the Moon



Develop a dedicated plant growth facility on the lunar surface as a future part of the **Artemis Base Camp**

Flight hardware development and precursor science is required in the coming decade to lay the enabling groundwork for Transformative BPS missions in the decade beyond



Opportunities this Decade for Biological Research in Deep Space

- **Execute Missions of Opportunity:** as free-flyers, ride-shares or integrated payloads, that fly with other human and robotic explorations into deep space, including government, private, and international ventures
- **Establish a Flagship Mission(s):** to be launched near the end of this decade or early in the next, that will be dedicated to transformational science in deep space, and benefit from the advantages a flagship mission can contribute to other NASA missions (e.g. Artemis)
- **Leverage and Collaborate:** with the Human Research Program and other NASA Programs that share objectives with Biological sciences to increase flight opportunities, leverage existing/heritage flight hardware, and share in the successes that biological research in deep space will bring to those Programs
- **Amplify the Impact of Limited Flight Opportunities:** with science teaming arrangements, bio-specimen sharing and open science to maximize participation and science return on investment
- **Don't Wait, Develop Now:** it takes years, not months, to advocate for and establish flight opportunities and, in parallel, to develop and integrate biological science into robust and heavily automated flight hardware for highly-constrained, near-term, deep space missions. Science and flight systems developed in the coming decade will lay the groundwork for transformational science and missions beyond



Questions

References

NASA Biological and Physical Sciences Division, Space Biology Program: In Depth Briefing, Dr. Sharmila Bhattacharya (January 24, 2022) Decadal Survey Biological Sciences Panel Meeting: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/01-24-2022/decadal-survey-on-biological-and-physical-sciences-research-in-space-2032-biological-sciences-panel-meeting-2>

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