

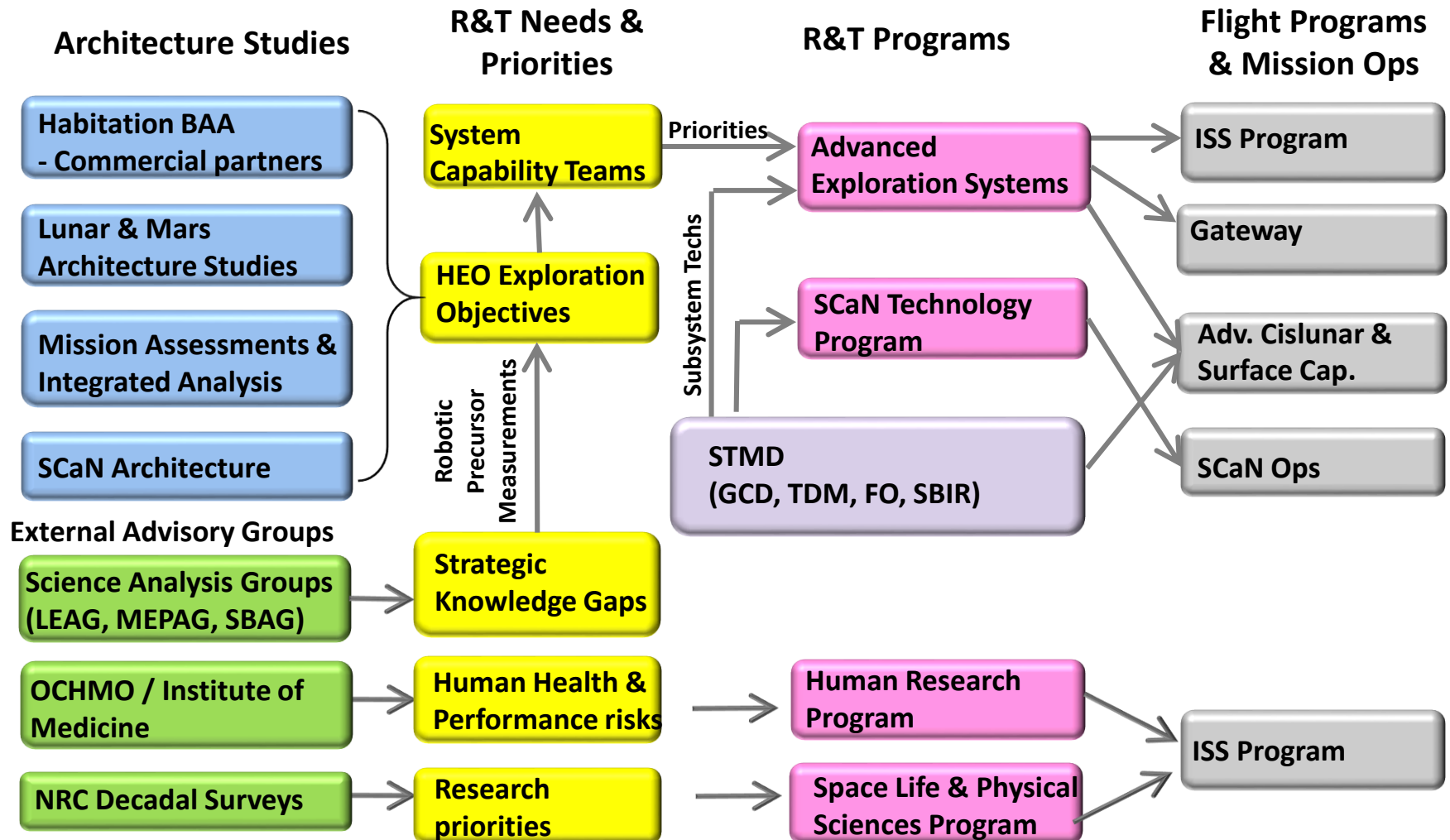
Space Life & Physical Sciences Research for Enabling Advanced Exploration Systems

National Academy of Sciences
March 27, 2019

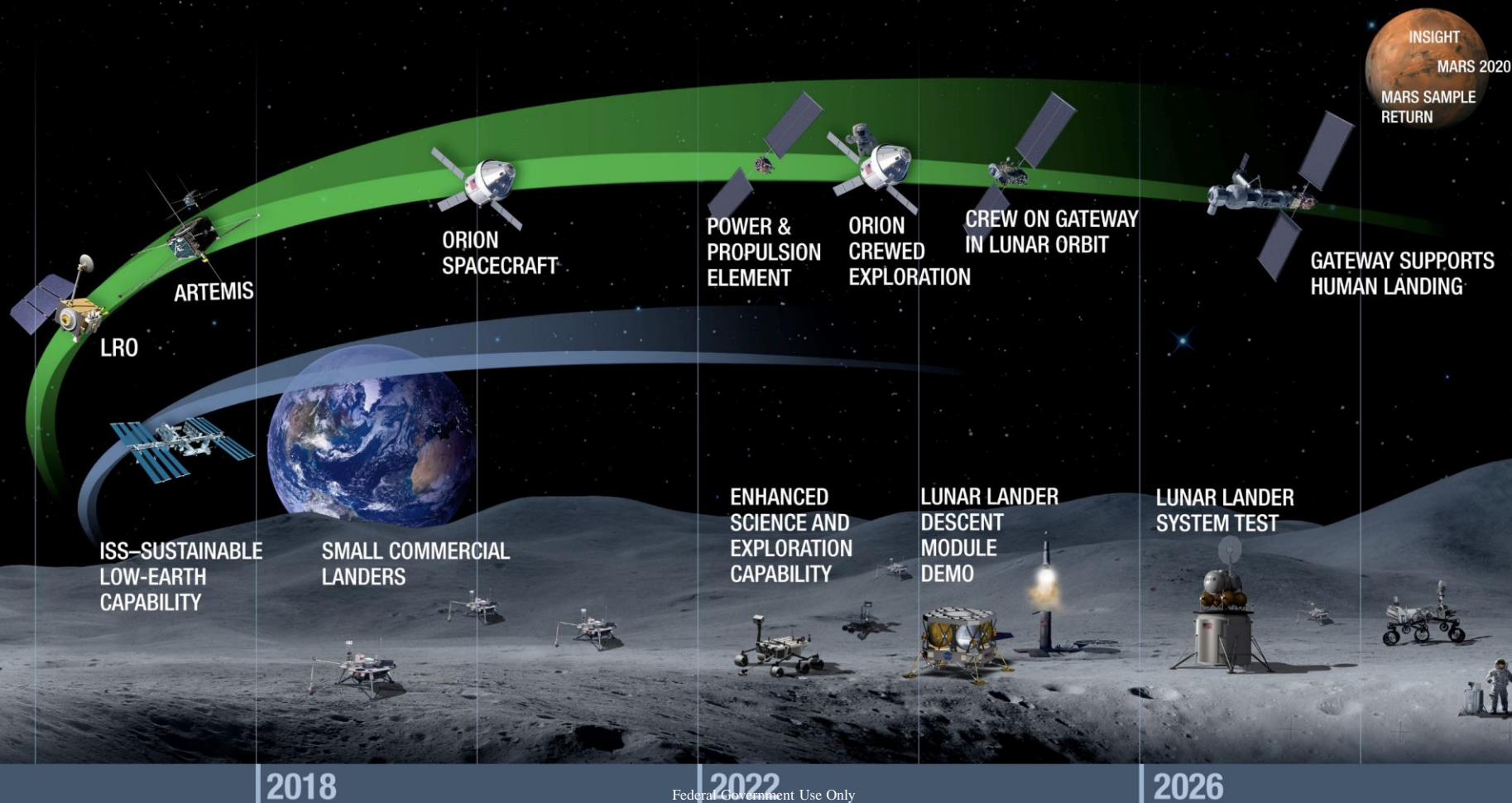
Chris Moore

Dr. Chris Moore
NASA Headquarters

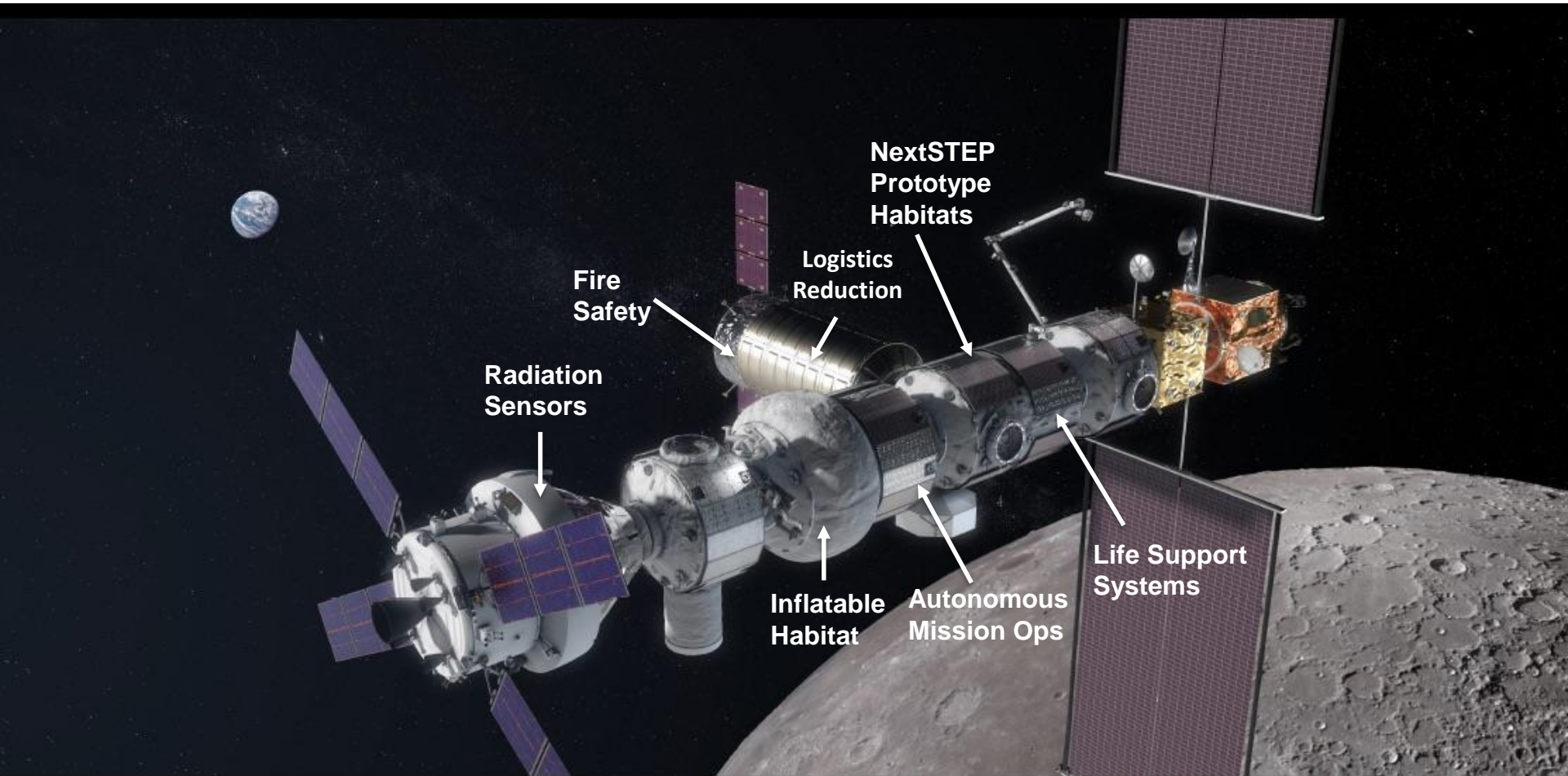
HEOMD Research & Technology Process



NASA Lunar Exploration Campaign



AES Technology Development for the Gateway



Biology-Based Life Support Systems



- **Objectives:**

- Demonstrate hybrid biological/physical life support systems for long duration missions.
- Demonstrate plant growth in microgravity to supplement crew's diet.

- **Current Activities:**

- Texas Tech is developing a biological waste water processor using Membrane Aerated Bioreactors (MABR).
- Sierra Nevada Corp. is planning to demonstrate the AstroGarden plant growth module on ISS.

- **Potential SLPS Contributions:**

- Plant and bacteria growth in microgravity



Biological water processor



AstroGarden plant growth module

Radiation Protection



- **Objectives:**

- Develop radiation sensors for monitoring exposure and shielding for radiation protection.

- **Current Activities:**

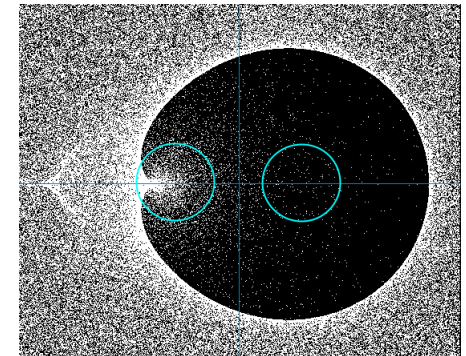
- Developing Hybrid Electronic Radiation Assessor (HERA) for ISS and Orion.
- Conducting active shielding experiments using a dipole electric field to deflect incoming particles.
- BioSentinel CubeSat to be launched on EM-1 will investigate the effects of deep space radiation on yeast DNA.

- **Potential SLPS Contributions:**

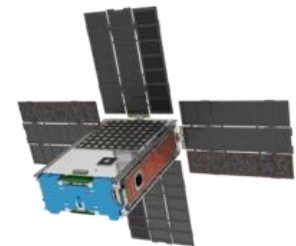
- Biological effects of radiation on simple organisms



ISS HERA



Simulation of Active Radiation Shielding



BioSentinel

- **Objectives:**

- Genetically engineer yeast to produce plastics from atmospheric CO₂, which can be used as feedstock for 3D printers.
- Supplement crew's diet by producing essential nutrients

- **Current Activities**

- CO₂-based manufacturing
- Developing BioNutrient growth packet to produce zeaxanthin for ISS crew

- **Potential SLPS Contributions**

- Genetically engineering microorganisms for in-situ production of desirable products
- Using extremophiles to understand the effectiveness of planetary protection techniques.



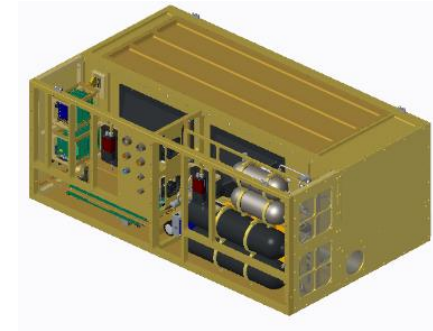
Membrane bioreactor



BioNutrient packet

- **Objectives:**

- Demonstrate fire monitoring and clean-up technologies in a realistic spacecraft environment
- Characterize fire growth in high oxygen, low pressure atmospheres
- Provide data to validate models of realistic spacecraft fire scenarios.



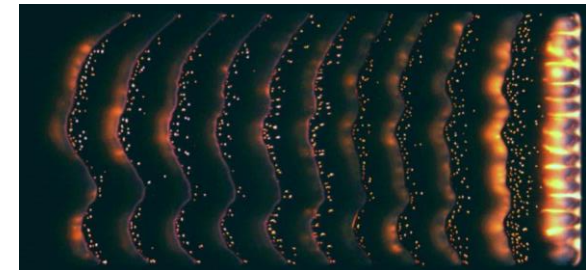
Saffire Flow Unit

- **Current Activities:**

- Assembly of Saffire-IV, V, VI fire safety experiments.

- **Potential SLPRS Contributions**

- Combustion physics experiments and models



Saffire-I flame propagation

In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)



- **Objectives**

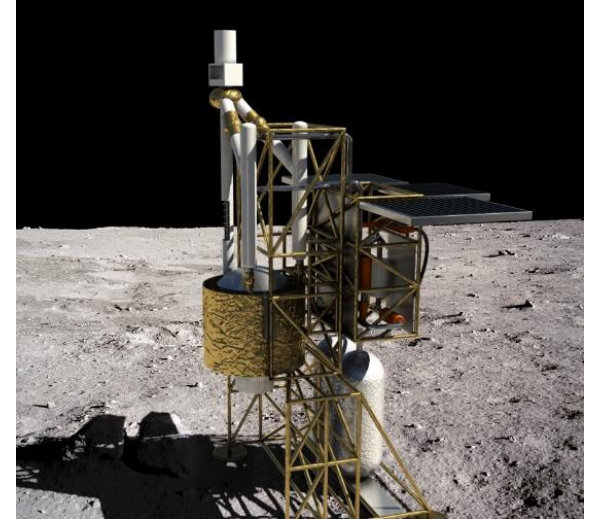
- ISRU is a fundamental capability for sustainable and affordable transportation and surface operations

- **Current Activities**

- Studying a range of possible capabilities including regolith excavation, oxygen production from regolith, and water extraction from surface

- **Potential SLPS Contributions**

- Physics of granular materials in 1/6-gravity
- Dust mitigation techniques



ISRU pilot plant on lunar surface

Cryogenic Fluid Management



- **Objectives**

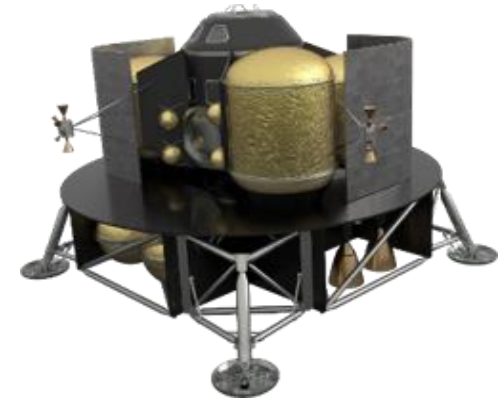
- Cryogenic fluid management enables long-term use of liquid oxygen, hydrogen, and methane and in situ propellant production

- **Current Activities**

- Tipping Point contracts with Blue Origin and Paragon for technology development leading to potential flight demonstration and infusion into human-class landers
- Propellant liquefaction tests in a vacuum chamber with brassboard tank and refrigeration loop.

- **Potential SLPRS Contributions**

- Cryogenic fluid mechanics



Cryogenic propellants for lunar landers and in-space transportation stages.

Space Durable Materials



- **Objectives**

- Develop space-durable materials for use in the dusty lunar surface environment, particularly softgoods for inflatable habitats and space suits.

- **Current Activities**

- Materials International Space Station Experiment (MISSE)

- **Potential SLPS Contributions**

- Lunar MISSE



Summary



Space Life & Physical Sciences Research	Infusion into Advanced Exploration Systems
Biology-based life support; plant growth in microgravity	Life Support Systems
Biological effects of radiation	Radiation Protection
Synthetic biology	In-Space Manufacturing
Combustion physics in microgravity	Spacecraft Fire Safety
Granular material physics	In-Situ Resource Utilization; Lunar lander dust plumes
Cryogenic fluid physics in microgravity	In-space refueling; cryogenic propellant storage
Space environmental effects on materials	Space-durable materials