**Decadal Surveys**

- Scientific **community sets priorities**, recommending **balanced portfolios** including:
  - **Flagship** missions and large facilities
  - **Competed mid-scale** projects & **New Frontiers** missions
  - **Competed small** research grants, technology development projects, and **Discovery-** & **Explorer-class** missions

**DRIVE Progress**
The top decadal priority DRIVE initiative would **maximize the return on federal investment** through targeted changes to the existing solar and space physics research enterprise at NASA, NSF and other agencies, **encouraging better collaboration** and **spurring greater innovation**.

**Small & Mid-Scale Missions**

**Discovery | Explorer New Frontiers**
- Most led by researchers at private institutions
- Cost-capped & competitive
- Broaden participation in space sciences
- Encourage innovation
- Deliver high return on federal investment.
- Develop & maintain technical workforce

- **Kepler** has opened our eyes to the billions of potentially habitable planets in our Milky Way galaxy.
- **IBEX** is helping us to better understand our sun and the boundaries of our solar system.
- **New Horizons** is set to fly by Pluto and its moons July 2015, and on to nearby objects identified with **Hubble**.

**Competed Grants**
- Astronomical sciences funded at NASA, National Science Foundation (NSF) & Dept. of Energy (DOE) Office of Science
- Awarded based on the **merit and breadth of impact** of the proposed scientific research
- Research dollars go to **scientists and students throughout the country**.

**Education & Public Outreach**

NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Program (NITARP)
Educator Jacqueline Barge works on original astronomical research with her high school students.

Large crowds gathered in Times Square, and many other locations, to celebrate the NASA Curiosity Rover’s successful landing on Mars.

More Online at http://aas.org/policy/resources/CLB2015CVD • T 202-328-2010 • Public.Policy@aas.org • http://aas.org
Small/mid-scale Projects

We applaud efforts to increase the cadence for small-scale Discovery and Explorer and mid-scale New Frontiers missions.

Right. The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission will scan the nearest stars for signs of potentially habitable planets.

Astronomical Sciences in FY 2016 President’s Budget Request

• Cuts or holds flat federal astronomical science programs
• Forces harmful tradeoffs between facilities and competitive research grants

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<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016 Request</th>
<th>Change FY 16-15</th>
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Source: FY 2016 President’s Budget Request, FY 2015 Omnibus; millions USD. James Webb Space Telescope fully funded on baseline.

Funding Research

The FY 2016 Request would underinvest in core competitive research programs at NASA and NSF, which enable the research community to maximize the scientific return on taxpayer investment in missions and facilities.