



The Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is the largest professional society of planetary scientists. Among our work, we inform our elected representatives about the value of science to society, particularly the importance of planetary science, and the broad benefits of this field to the workforce across the United States.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR PLANETARY SCIENCE

The National Academy of Sciences decadal surveys are recognized by policy makers as the voice of the community. The surveys identify the most compelling science goals and present an ambitious program of activities for future investment. They are foundational to the leadership of the nation in science, technology, and workforce development.

The **Origins, Worlds, and Life: A Decadal Strategy for Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023-2032** decadal survey identifies key scientific challenges for planetary science in the next decade.

The Origins, Worlds, and Life decadal survey outlines a balanced and inspirational plan for planetary science in the next decade, driven by key questions organized into broad themes.

Origins:

How did the solar system and Earth originate, and are systems like ours common or rare in the universe?

Worlds and Processes:

How did planetary bodies evolve from their primordial states to the diverse objects seen today?

Life and Habitability:

What conditions led to habitable environments and the emergence of life on Earth, and did life form elsewhere?

The planetary science decadal survey report emphasized the value of sample return; the need to understand how diverse planets, moons, and asteroids formed and evolved; the appeal of exploring the water-rich planets Uranus and Neptune; the urgency of addressing how life on Earth emerged and evolved; and the compelling rationale to study habitable environments at Mars and icy ocean worlds.

Support a balanced portfolio to ensure a steady cadence of discoveries and provide a wide range of opportunities for future STEM professionals.

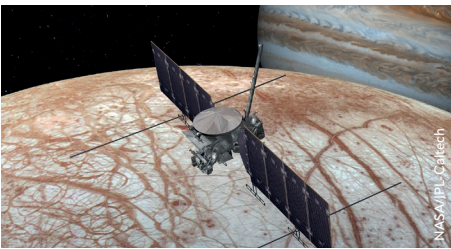
COMPETITIVELY SELECTED GRANTS SUPPORT A STRONG WORKFORCE



Blue Ghost 1 (above) delivered 10 scientific payloads to the Moon in March 2025. This mission is part of the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program, a competitively selected program that enables U.S. companies to deliver low-cost science and technology demonstrations that help enable lunar exploration. (Image credit: NASA)

- NASA, NSF, and DOE fund **students and researchers in all 50 states and territories** across the **academic, industry, government, and nonprofit sectors**.
- Agency grants help to build the nation's **geographically diverse workforce** and inspire the next generation.
- Sustainable support of NASA's **Research and Analysis** component of the planetary science program **requires funding levels tied to 10% of the PSD budget**, as directed in the most recent planetary science decadal survey.
- Competitive solicitation awards are based on the **scientific merit and potential impact** of proposed research.

LARGE MISSIONS ACHIEVE TRANSFORMATIONAL SCIENCE



EUROPA CLIPPER: Investigating the astrobiological potential of one of Jupiter's moons to provide unprecedented new information to guide the search for life in solar system ocean worlds (2030 arrival).

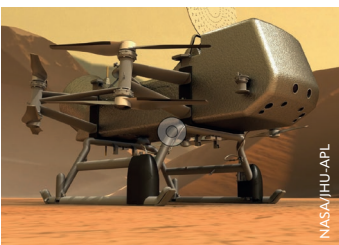


CURIOSITY & PERSEVERANCE: Both rover missions continue to result in new and unanticipated scientific discoveries in extended mission phase. Continued funding is crucial for answering decadal-level science questions, human exploration preparation, and improved understanding of Mars' astrobiological potential.

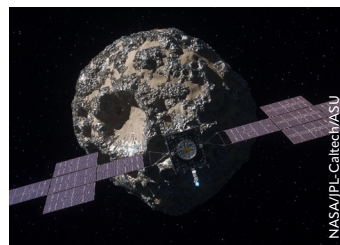


URANUS ORBITER AND PROBE: Unveiling the complex interactions of the planet, rings, and moons of the Uranian system addresses fundamental questions of our solar system's formation resulting in a rich data set for comparative studies with gas giants Jupiter and Saturn, as well as exoplanets.

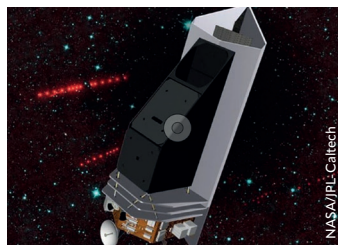
SMALL- AND MID-SCALE MISSIONS PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL FOCUSED SCIENCE



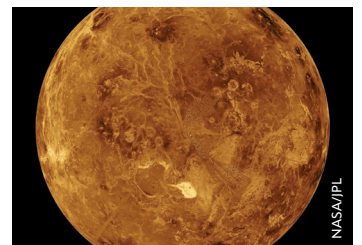
DRAGONFLY: Characterizing the environmental habitability of Titan through a search for chemical signatures indicating water and prebiotic chemical processes elsewhere in the solar system (2028 launch).



PSYCHE: Exploring a metal world that holds clues to the formation of planetary building blocks in the very earliest epoch of our solar system's formation.



NEO SURVEYOR: Discovering and characterizing most of the potentially hazardous asteroids that are near the Earth.



VERITAS & DAVINCI: Understanding how the formation and evolution of Venus, our sister planet, led to stark contrasts with Earth.

Cover image: Composite image of solar system. Credit: Adobe Stock.