

# Space Flight Software

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Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

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[CL#23-6454]



#### Part 1: Mars Helicopter Project Flight Software

- Mars Helicopter Project
- Conditions at Mars & Helicopter Capability
- Mars Helicopter Hardware
- Mars Helicopter FSW
   Architecture & Description
- Concept of Operations

# **Today's Agenda**

Part 2: Mars Rover Project Flight Software

- Mars Rover Family Portrait
- Growth of FSW Complexity & Size
- Mars2020 Rover Project
- Mars2020 FSW Architecture
- Mars2020 FSW Modules
- Mars2020 Surface Operations FSW



Part 3: Dare Might Things in Past, Present, and Future

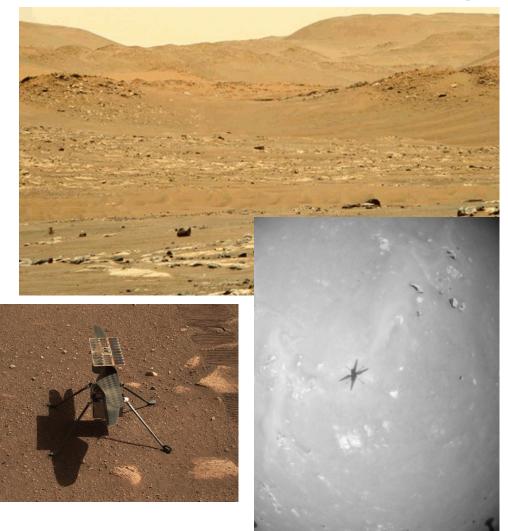
- NASA's Three Balanced Pillars
- Flight Project Funding Strategy
- NASA's Ten Centers
- NASA/JPL-Caltech Beginnings
- NASA JPL's 160 Flight Projects [1958-2027]



# **Mars Helicopter Project**



- NASA technology demonstration
- Landed with Perseverance rover in Feb 2021
- Originally slated for 30 Mars Sol (Note: A Sol is a Martian day, 24 hours 37 minutes long) in April 2021
- Because of great success, is still on ongoing extended mission (as of Nov 2023)
- Purpose is to gather detailed flight performance data to inform future rotorcraft
- Extended mission is to explore scouting concept for Perseverance Rover



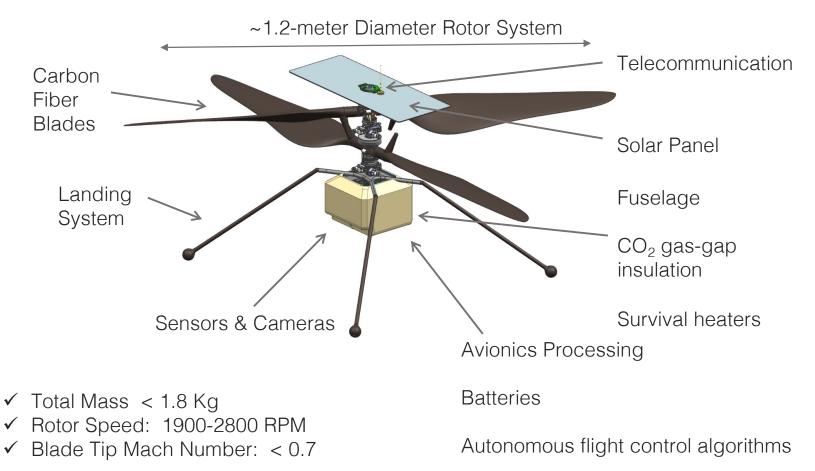


- Long distance from Earth (average distance: ~ 140 million miles, ~ 225 million km)
  - Autonomous flight and landing
- Thin atmosphere (<1% of Earth's)
  - Large blades; light-weight vehicle; high RPMs
- Cold Martian nights (~ –90° C)
  - Active temperature control where needed; External parts which can survive cold
- Need self-sufficient solar power system
  - Solar powered with batteries

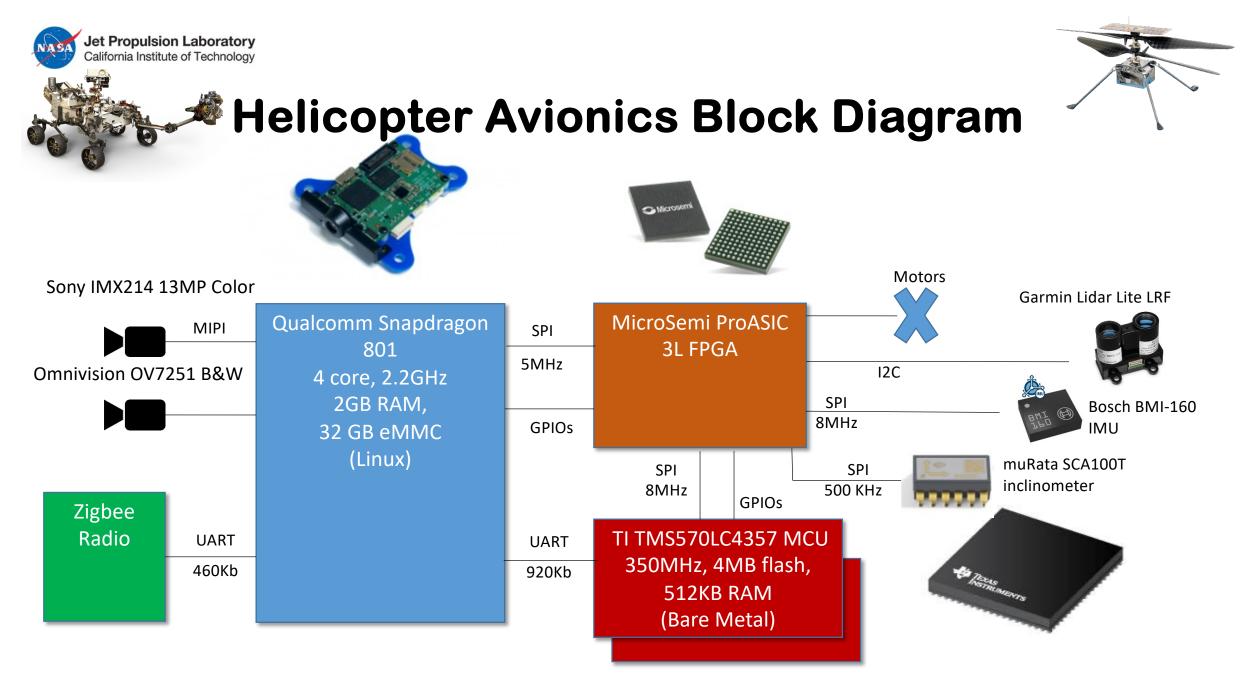




# **Anatomy of Mars Helicopter**



[Credit: Canham/CL#19-7128 /CL#22-0146]



[Credit: Canham/CL#19-7128 /CL#22-0146]





# Helicopter FSW Architecture

- Chose F Prime flight software framework
  - JPL developed, but open sourced on NASA GitHub <u>https://github.com/nasa/fprime</u>
  - Component architecture
  - The use of F Prime allowed us to leverage work done by other projects to mature the core components of the system
  - The flexibility of F Prime allowed us support a number of venues and functions
  - Component architecture allowed combinations for different testing, Ground Support Equipment (GSE), flight deployments
  - Helicopter reused many infrastructure components from previous projects
- Used on previous projects
  - RapidScat, Asteria, NeaScout, Lunar Flashlight, University CubeSat projects

#### California Institute of Technology Helicopter Flight Software

- Two processors and major functions
  - NAV processor does command, telemetry, and radio functions, power/thermal management, feature tracking and "outer" guidance loop
    - 500Hz guidance
    - 30Hz tracking
    - Linux OS
  - FC processor does "inner" guidance loop, flight attitude control, motor control and high-rate telemetry
    - 500Hz guidance and control
    - "Bare Metal"
    - no OS

Helicopter (Heli)

Seq

File

Up

File

Mgr

Radio

Driver

Tlm

GNC

Mtr

Flash

Rate

Group

Cmd

Prm

Rate

Grp

Buff

Mgr

1/0

Drvs

Thrm

GNC

Inc

1/0

Drv

Tlm

File

Down

Health

Up

link

Pwr

Fault

IMU

Prm

Tlm

TI TMS570 MCU (FC)

Snapdragon 801 (NAV)

Evr

Poly

Pkt

Log

Down

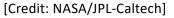
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Thrm

Cam

Alt

Fault



F Prime

Inherited

Heli

Shared

Heli

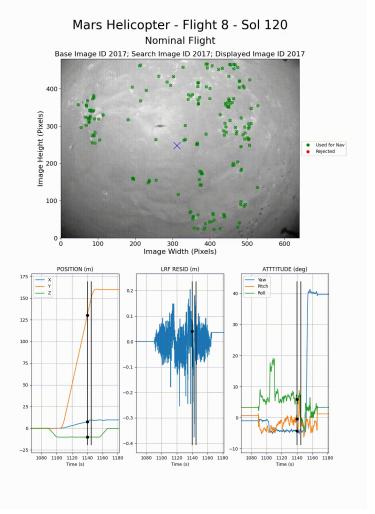
Unique



# **Software Performance**



- GNC (Guidance Navigation Control) has high loop rates compared to the Rover during EDL
  - Rover: 64Hz
  - Helicopter:
    - 500Hz GNC loop
    - 30Hz feature tracking loop
- Testing was piecewise
  - Flights in chamber
    - No significant translation
  - Feature tracking on COTS quadcopter in arroyo near JPL
- System finally fully played together on Mars





## **CPU Utilization During Flights**

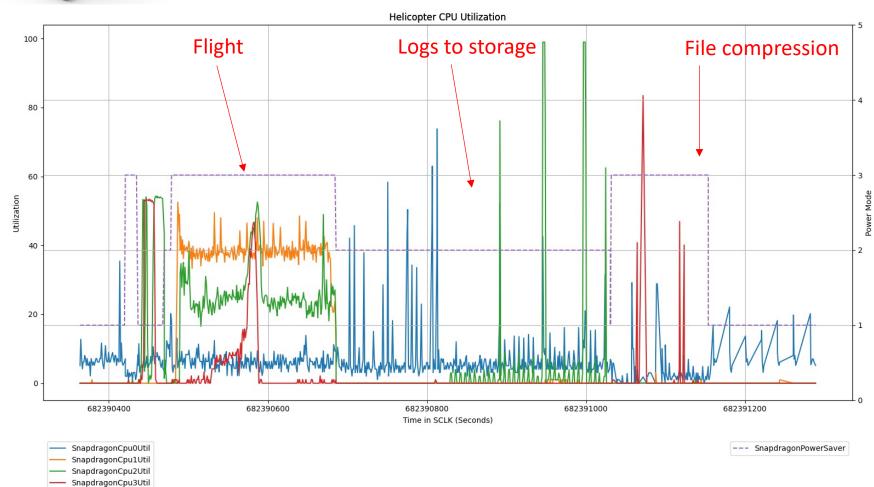


• Core 0

- Data handling and logging
  - Telecom
  - Device I/O
  - Core 1
    - Cameras
- Core 2
  - Visual processing
  - Image logging
  - Data routing to MCU
- Core 3

# Guidance/Navigation processing

[Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech]



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[Credit: Canham/CL#19-7128 /CL#22-0146]



# **Concept of Operations**



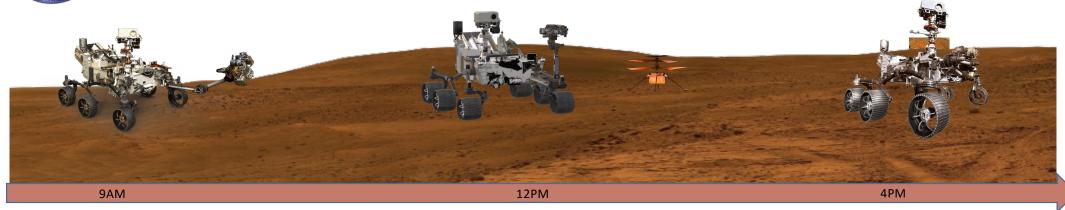
- Uplink sequences direct from Earth in the morning
- Helicopter flights are typically around noon
- Downlink data in the afternoon/evening via relays



No live coverage of flights







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[Credit: Canham/CL#19-7128 /CL#22-0146]



# **Today's Agenda**



- Mars Rover Family Portrait
- Growth of FSW Complexity & Size
- Mars2020 Rover Project
- Mars2020 FSW Architecture
- Mars2020 FSW Modules
- Mars2020 Surface Operations FSW



# **Mars Rover Family Portrait**





Mars Pathfinder (1996-1997)

#### **MPF Project**

- Lander and 10kg micro-rover
- Airbag landing
- Single string
- RAD6K + VxWorks
- > 3 science instruments
- 7 Sol mission (rover)
- > 30 Sol mission (lander)

der Mars Exploration Rover (2003-2018) MER Project

- ✓ 2 185kg rovers
- ✓ Airbag landing
- ✓ Single string
- ✓ RAD6K + VxWorks
- ✓ 6 science instruments
- ✓ 90 Sol science mission

Mars Science Laboratory (2011-Present)

Curiosity

Mars2020 (2020-Present)

Perseverance

#### **MSL Project**

- ✤ 900kg mega-rover
- Staged powered descent
- ✤ Dual string
- RAD750 + VxWorks
- ✤ 10 science instruments
- 2 year mission

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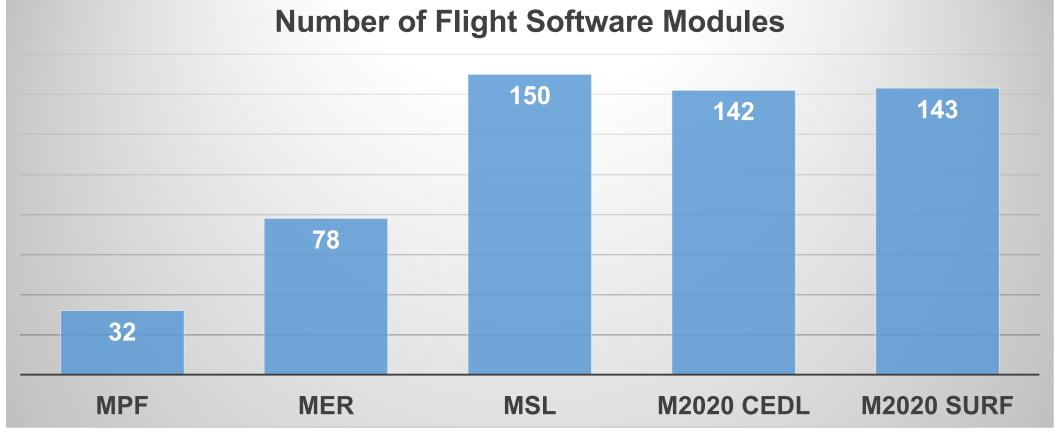
[CL#22-4140]



# **Growth of FSW Complexity**



Over the past three decades, the rovers launched by JPL have grown larger, more autonomous, and more capable of performing challenging science on the surface of Mars.



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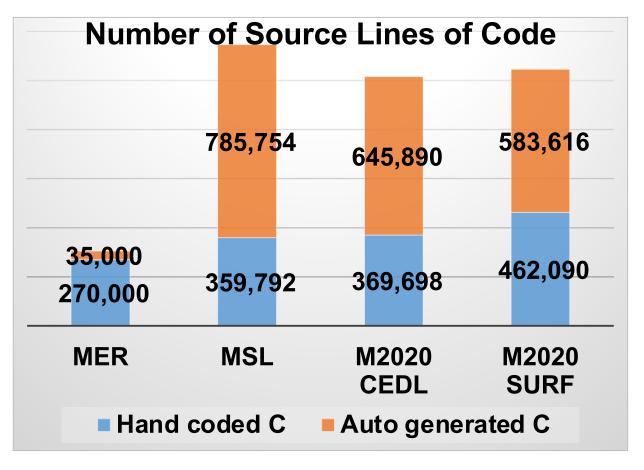
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# **Growth of FSW Size**



- JPL Developed Autocoder has become a proven tool for flight software implementation.
- The developer can focus on the unique software programming elements and leave repetitive elements to the Autocoder.
- In particular, the frequent change of flight commands, telemetry, data products, and parameters is amenable to this autocoding throughout the incremental lifecycle.







### **Mars2020 Rover Project**



#### **LAUNCH**

MSL Class / Capability LV
Period: Jul/Aug 2020

#### **CRUISE/APPROACH**

•7.5 month cruise•Arrive Feb 2021

- MSL EDL system: guided entry
  - and powered descent/Sky Crane

**ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING** 

- •16 x 14 km landing ellipse (range trigger baselined)
- Access to landing sites ±30° latitude, ≤ -0.5 km elevation
- •~950 kg rover

#### **SURFACE MISSION**

- •Prime mission of one Mars year
- •20 km traverse distance capability
- •Seeking signs of past life
- Returnable cache of samples
- Prepare for human exploration of Mars





# Mars2020 FSW Architecture

• Mars Rover FSW

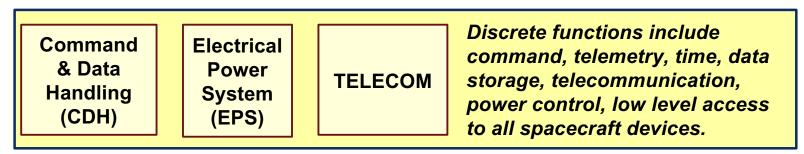
Components are organized into layers with functional components at the lowest layer, activity components at the middle layer, and behavior components at the top layer. System

Spacecraft system behaviors include autonomous algorithms such as system fault protection, safing, thermal control.

Behavior Layer – software initiated activities



Activity Layer – ground planned activities



Functional Layer – discrete spacecraft functions

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VA S

### Mars2020 FSW Modules



System1.cbm2.csm3.fsm4.plan5.planc6.scfg7.smm8.thermal9.timeline10.fbm11.fbmavs12.fbmcomm13.fbmpwr	Cruise/EDL1.acs2.aman3.dimu4.dsa5.edl6.edlbg7.edlcomm8.edlgnc9.gid10.latchv11.medli12.ssa13.sync14.tds15.thruster	2. mmm       2. arb         3. ats       3. cmo         4. edlcam       3. cmo         5. mcamz       4. fm         5. mcamz       5. ial         6. pixl       6. img         7. sherloc       7. ivp         8. srlc       9. math         9. scam       9. math         10. helo       10. rimu         11. meda       11. sap         12. moxi       13. rimfax	1.       acm         2.       arb         3.       cmod         4.       fm         5.       ial         6.       img         7.       ivp         8.       mat3         9.       mathf         10.       rimu         11.       sapp         12.       scsvis         13.       sgnc         14.       sid         15.       spam	CDH           1.         adf           2.         aut           3.         bcdrv           4.         bcmgr           5.         btp           6.         cmd           7.         comp           8.         cp           9.         cpu           10.         crcdrv           11.         crcmgr           12.         ddi           13.         dmadrv           14.         dms           15.         dmsbg	<ol> <li>files</li> <li>fvs</li> <li>gbl</li> <li>health</li> <li>hsm</li> <li>hst</li> <li>hst</li> <li>iccitcdrv</li> <li>idle</li> <li>idle</li> <li>iml</li> <li>ipc</li> <li>lap</li> <li>math</li> <li>mcicdis</li> <li>mcicdrv</li> <li>mem</li> <li>msiadis</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>42. nvfs</li> <li>43. nvmcamdrv</li> <li>44. nvmcammgr</li> <li>45. nvmcfg</li> <li>46. osal</li> <li>47. pdp</li> <li>48. pie</li> <li>49. pty</li> <li>50. ramfs</li> <li>51. rtdrv</li> <li>52. rtmgr</li> <li>53. rts</li> <li>54. sarb</li> <li>55. seq</li> <li>56. tim</li> <li>57. uartdrv</li> </ul>	EPS           1.         acmgr           2.         adc           3.         bcb           4.         dim           5.         mcmgr           6.         pammgr           7.         pwr           8.         pyro           9.         reumgr           10.         rm           11.         srm
11. fbmavs	14. tds	13. rimfax <u>Mechanisms</u>	14. sid	14. dms	35. mem	56. tim	
13. fbmpwr 14. fbmsafe	Mobility	1.aca2.arm3.drill	16. vgnc 17. vislib 18. vtt	16. dwn 17. dwndrv 18. eha	37. msiadrv 38. mtifdis 39. mtifdrv	58. uartio 59. upl 60. upldrv	2.rfr3.sdst4.sspa
	<ol> <li>mom</li> <li>nav</li> <li>navlib</li> <li>rcm</li> <li>pnt</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>drive</li> <li>gdrt</li> <li>hga</li> <li>mca</li> <li>mot</li> </ol>		19. enet 20. evr	40. npm 41. nvds	61. vcemgr 62. vid	5. twta 6. uhft

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6. pntlib

9. rsm

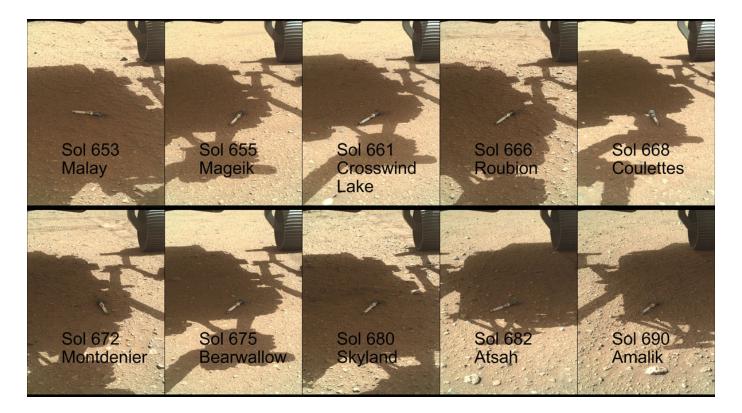


### Mars2020 Surface Operations FSW

The Mars2020 Perseverance rover carries seven instruments, which interface with spacecraft FSW, to conduct its science and exploration including sample collections.

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The Mars2020 Sampling and Caching Subsystem has deposited a total of 10 sample tubes on Mars surface at "Three Forks," a location within Jezero Crater.





# **Today's Agenda**

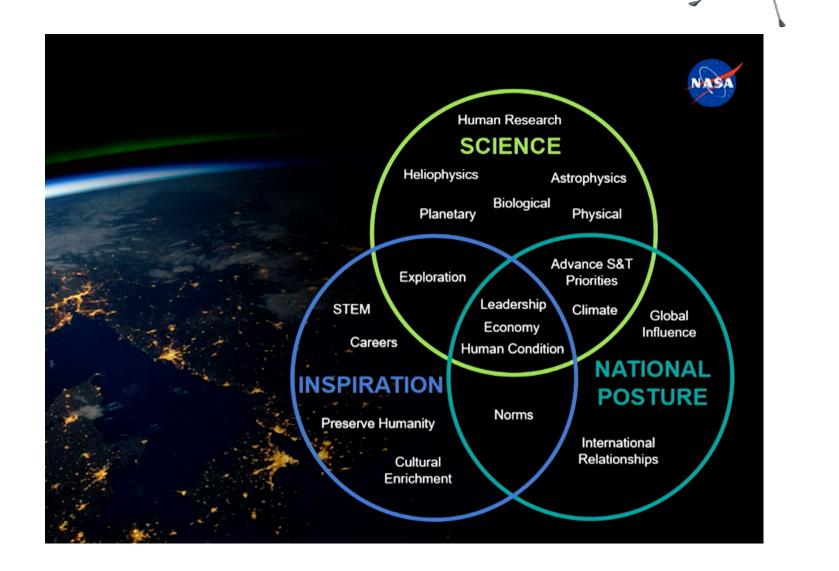


Part 3: Dare Might Things in Past, Present, and Future

- NASA's Three Balanced Pillars
- Flight Project Funding Strategy
- NASA's Ten Centers
- NASA/JPL-Caltech Beginnings
- NASA JPL's 160 Flight Projects [1958-2027]



# NASA's Three Balanced Pillars



[CL#23-6361]





# Flight Project Funding Strategy

- Developing and testing one-off, novel spacecraft and systems (instruments, rovers, software) means thinking differently.
- NASA asks the National Academy to prioritize research areas and release decadal surveys once every 10 years. The decadal survey document provides a framework for all discussions on funding priorities in NASA, the White House, and Congress.
  - "Thriving on Our Changing Planet: A Decadal Strategy for Earth Observations from Space 2017-2026"
  - "Origins, Worlds, and Life: A Decadal Strategy for Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023-2032"
- NASA's flight projects are either assigned to a NASA Center or selected through a competitive process such as an Announcement of Opportunity.
  - Today, a large portion of NASA Center's flight projects come from competed missions, where the scientific merit of the proposed investigations must be demonstrated in written proposals submitted to NASA and are led by a Principal Investigator.



## **NASA's Ten Centers**



NASA Headquarters [Founded: 1958, State: Washington D.C.]

- 1) Jet Propulsion Laboratory at California Institute of Technology (JPL-Caltech) [Founded: 1936, State: California]
- 2) Ames Research Center [Founded: 1939, State: California]
- 3) Armstrong Flight Research Center [Founded: 1946, State: CA]
- 4) Glenn Research Center [Founded: 1941, State: Ohio]
- 5) Goddard Space Flight Center [Founded: 1959, State: Maryland]
- 6) Marshall Space Flight Center [Founded: 1960, State: Alabama]
- 7) Johnson Space Center [Founded: 1961, State: Texas]
- 8) Langley Research Center [Founded: 1917, State: Virginia]
- 9) Stennis Space Center [Founded: 1961, State: Mississippi]

#### 10)Kennedy Space Center [Founded: 1962, State: Florida]

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#### **SEPTEMBER 23, 1891**

- The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) was founded as a private research university.
- To date, 46 Caltech alumni and faculty have won a total of 47 Nobel Prizes.

#### OCTOBER 31, 1936

 First Rocket Tests by founders of what would become the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

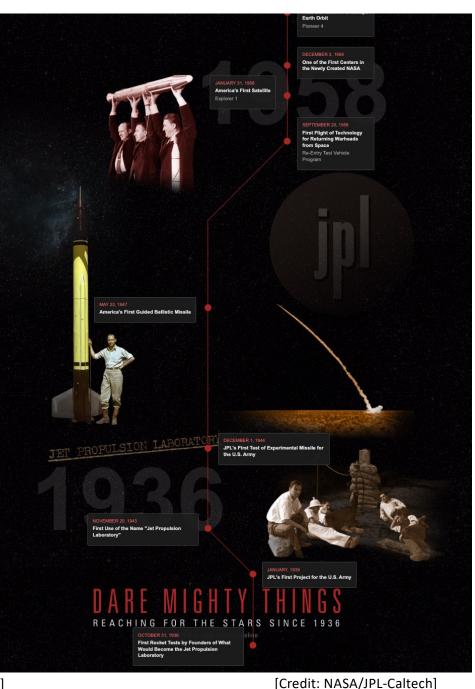
## JPL Beginnings...

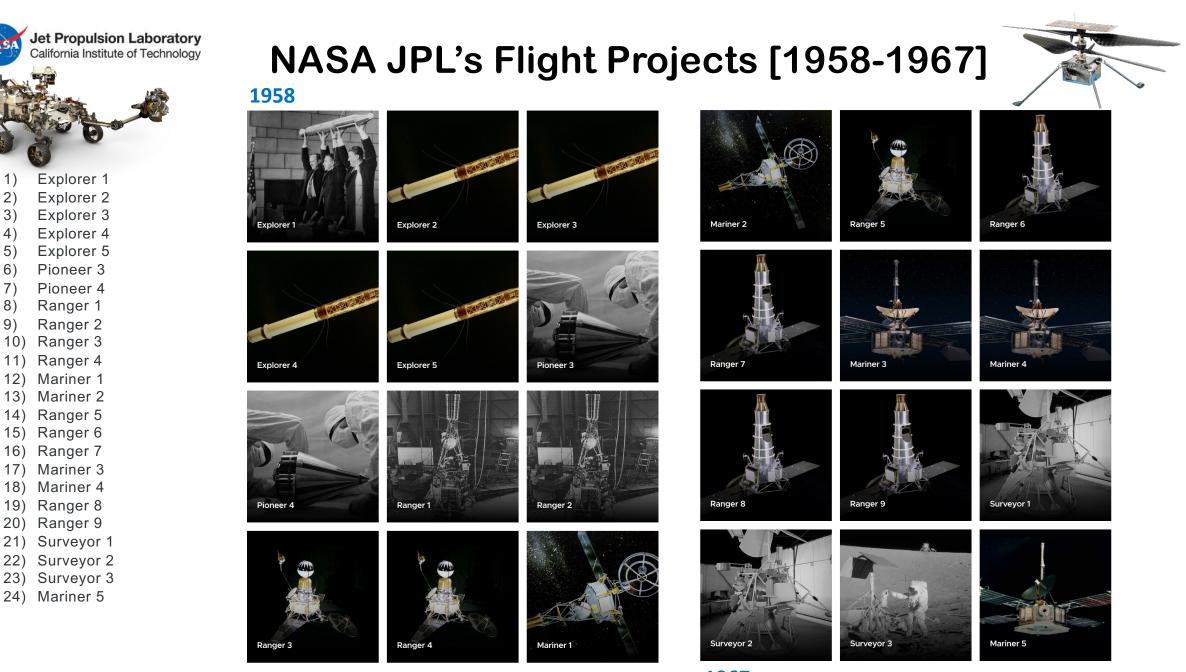
1936



#### Present







2)

3)

4)

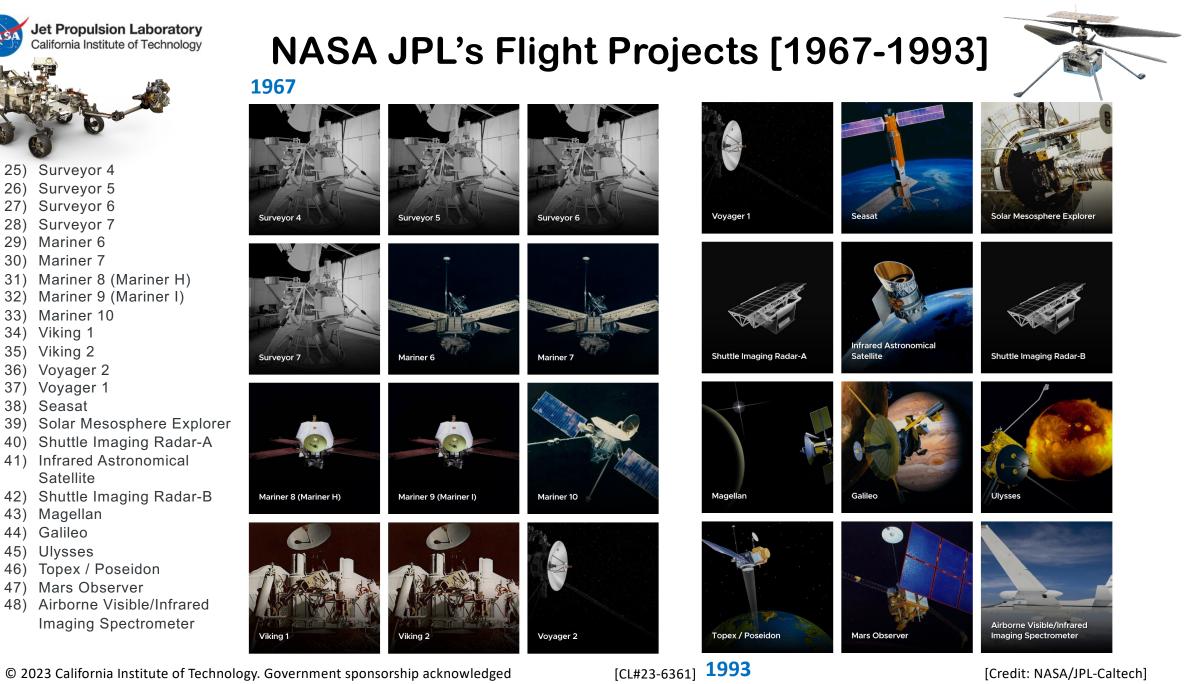
5) 6)

7)

8) 9)

10)

[CL#23-6361] **1967** 



25) Surveyor 4 26) Surveyor 5 27) Surveyor 6

28) Surveyor 7

33) Mariner 10 34) Viking 1

35) Viking 2

36) Voyager 2 37) Voyager 1 38) Seasat

Satellite

43) Magellan 44) Galileo 45) Ulysses

Mariner 6 30) Mariner 7

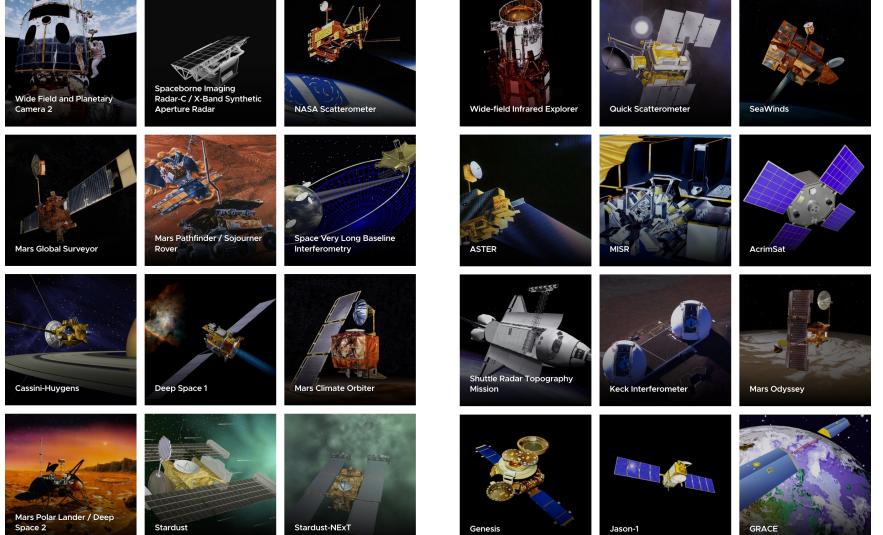
29)



- 49) Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2
- 50) Spaceborne Imaging Radar-C / X-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar
- 51) NASA Scatterometer
- 52) Mars Global Surveyor
- 53) Mars Pathfinder / Sojourner Rover
- 54) Space Very Long Baseline Interferometry
- 55) Cassini-Huygens
- 56) Deep Space 1
- 57) Mars Climate Orbiter
- 58) Mars Polar Lander / Deep Space
- 59) Stardust
- 60) Stardust NExT
- 61) Wide-field Infrared Explorer
- 62) Quick Scatterometer
- 63) SeaWinds
- 64) ASTER
- 65) MISR
- 66) AcrimSat
- 67) Shuttle Radar Topography Mission
- 68) Keck Interferometer
- 69) Mars Odyssey
- 70) Genesis
- 71) Jason-1
- 72) GRACE







[CL#23-6361] **2002** 

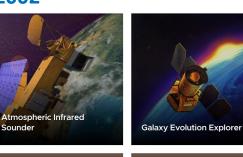


- Atmospheric Infrared Sounder 73)
- Galaxy Evolution Explorer 74)
- Hayabusa 75)
- 76) Spirit Rover
- **Opportunity Rover** 77)
- Spitzer Space Telescope 78)
- 79) Microwave Instrument for the Rosetta Orbiter
- 80) Autonomous Sciencecraft Experiment
- 81) Tropospheric Emission Spectrometer
- 82) Microwave Limb Sounder
- 83) Deep Impact
- Deep Impact EPOXI 84)
- Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter 85)
- 86) CloudSat
- Phoenix 87)
- Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle 88) Synthetic Aperture Radar
- 89) Dawn
- Jason-2 90)
- 91) Moon Mineralogy Mapper
- Orbiting Carbon Observatory 92)
- Kepler Exoplanet Mission 93)
- Herschel Space Observatory 94)
- Planck 95)
- Diviner Lunar Radiometer 96) Experiment

### NASA JPL's Flight Projects [2002-2009]



Sounder











**Deep Impact** 



Spitzer Space Telescope

Tropospheric Emission

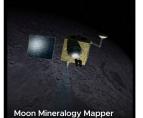
Deep Impact - EPOXI

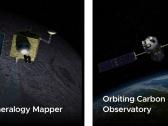
Spectrometer

















[Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech]

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Microwave Limb Sounder

[CL#23-6361] **2009** 

CloudSa



- 97) Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer
- 98) NEOWISE
- 99) Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer
- 100) Aquarius
- 101) Juno
- 102) GRAIL
- 103) Curiosity Rover
- 104) NuSTAR
- 105) Airborne Snow Observatory
- 106) M-Cubed / COVE-2
- 107) OPALS
- 108) Orbiting Carbon Observatory 2
- 109) Inertial Stellar Compass 110) ISS-RapidScat
- 110) 155-Rapi
- 111) RACE
- 112) GRIFEX
- 113) SMAP
- 114) AVIRIS-NG
- 115) PRISIM
- 116) Disturbance Reduction System
- 117) IPEX
- 118) Jason-3
- 119) ASTERIA
- 120) ASTERIA Extended Mission

## NASA JPL's Flight Projects [2009-2017]

Large Binocular Telescope

Interferometer

2009













[CL#23-6361] **2017** 















SMAD





ASTERIA - Extended Mission

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121) ISARA 122) FINESSE 123) InSight 124) MarCO 125) Cold Atom Laboratory 126) CubeRRT 127) TEMPEST-D 128) RainCube 129) GRACE-FO 130) ECOSTRESS 131) Asteroid Redirect Robotic Mission 132) INSPIRE 133) MAIA 134) Orbiting Carbon Observatory 3 135) Deep Space Atomic Clock 136) NISAR 137) Mars Sample Return 138) The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope 139) Europa Lander 140) Perseverance Rover 141) Ingenuity 142) SPHEREX 143) Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich Satellite

144) Deep Space Network

### NASA JPL's Flight Projects [2017-2021]

2017

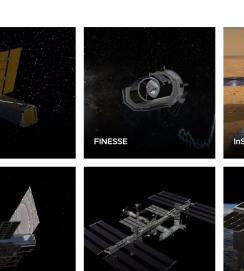
ISARA

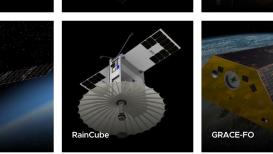
MarCO

TEMPEST-D

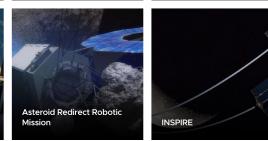
ECOSTRESS

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Cold Atom Laboratory



CubeRRT

**Orbiting Carbon** Observatory 3 MAIA Deep Space Atomic Clock The Nancy Grace Roman NISAR Mars Sample Return Space Telescope Perseverance Rover Europa Lander Ingenuity







[CL#23-6361] **2021** 



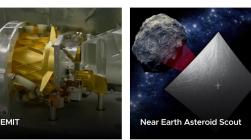


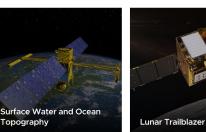
145) SunRISE 146) VERITAS 147) MIRI 148) EMIT 149) Near Earth Asteroid Scout 150) Lunar Flashlight 151) Surface Water and Ocean Topography 152) Lunar Trailblazer 153) Euclid 154) Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC) 155) Psyche 156) CADRE 157) Europa Clipper 158) ASTHROS 159) The Farside Seismic Suite 160) Near-Earth Object Surveyor

## NASA JPL's Flight Projects [2021-2027]

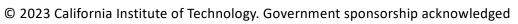
2021

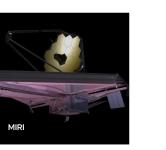






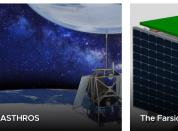






Lunar Flashlight





The Farside Seismic Suite

A total of 160 JPL's Flight **Project Science [1958-2027]:** 

- Earth (56)
- Mars (24)
- Moon (23)
- Stars and Galaxies (16)
- Asteroids & Comets (12)
- Exoplanets (9)
- Venus (6)
- Jupiter (4)
- Europa (3)
- Interstellar Space (2)
- Solar System (2)
- Sun (2)
- Mercury (1)
- Saturn (1)
- Deep Space Network (1)

[Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech]

Near-Earth Object Surveyor 2027

A total of 160 JPL's **Flight Project Status** [1958-2027]:

- Past (97)
- Current (43)
- Future (15)
- Proposed (5)

[CL#23-6361]





# Thank You!

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