

## THE CASSINI MISSION TO THE SATURNIAN SYSTEM

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In October of 1997 the launch of Cassini will start a very sophisticated spacecraft on its journey to Saturn. The payload carries the instrumentation to support 27 different scientific investigations which address all of the different aspects of the Saturnian system. The scientific objectives are achieved by detailed studies of Saturn itself, its rings, its magnetosphere, its icy satellites, and Titan, the only satellite with a thick atmosphere. This atmosphere and the landscape below it will be sampled, measured, and imaged as ESA's Huygens Titan probe descends by parachute to reach the surface. Next, Cassini will embark upon an orbital tour of the system. It will flyby icy satellites and return to Titan often to study its surface and atmosphere on a global scale. This work was performed at JPL under contract with NASA.