

Possible Mars Sample Return Scenarios

- Return of scientifically selected samples from Mars to address key science objectives has been and remains the highest scientifically endorsed priority by both of last two Planetary Science decadal surveys:

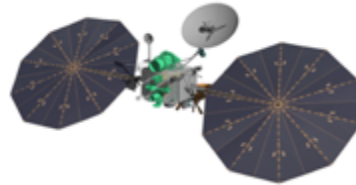
Mars 2020

- Select & Acquire Samples



Orbiter*

- Rendezvous & Sample Containment
- Return to Earth
- Earth Entry Vehicle



Sample* Retrieval/Launch into Mars orbit

- Small Fetch Rover to Retrieve Samples
- Small MAV on Fixed Platform
- Launch Samples from Mars Surface to ~500km Orbit



* Mission concepts in decadal survey for potential sample return steps.