



2018 IDTechEx Show! Berlin Off Grid Energy Independence Berlin, Germany

Next-Generation Power and Sensor Technologies: A New Perspective on Dual Space-Terrestrial Applications

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Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology



AGENDA

- Recent Spacecraft Power Systems
- Terrestrial Energy Recovery Applications
 - Motivations
 - New Emerging TE Materials
 - High Power Density TE Module Technology
- High Temperature Solar Photovoltaics
- Biosensor Technologies
- Final Thoughts

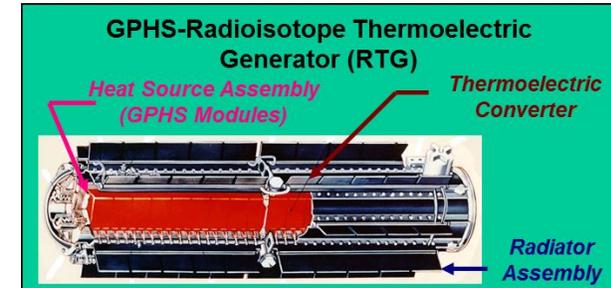
NASA Science Exploration Missions Need for Both Solar & Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS)

Solar power systems serve a *critical role* in the scientific exploration of the near-Earth solar system

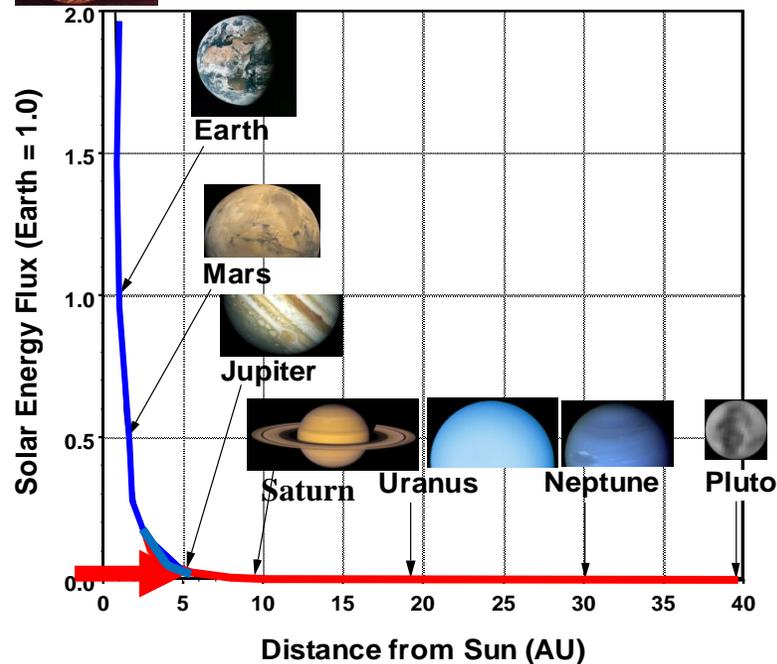
- Moderate power levels up to 100 kW
- Operations dependent on distance and orientation with respect to Sun

Radioisotope power systems (RPS) serve a *critical role* in the scientific exploration of the deep-space solar system

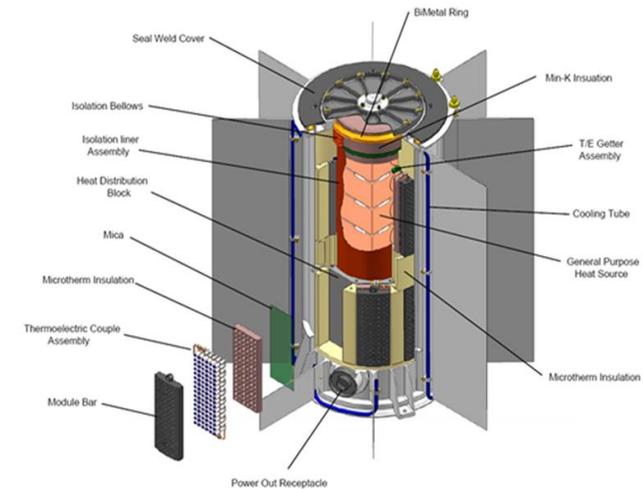
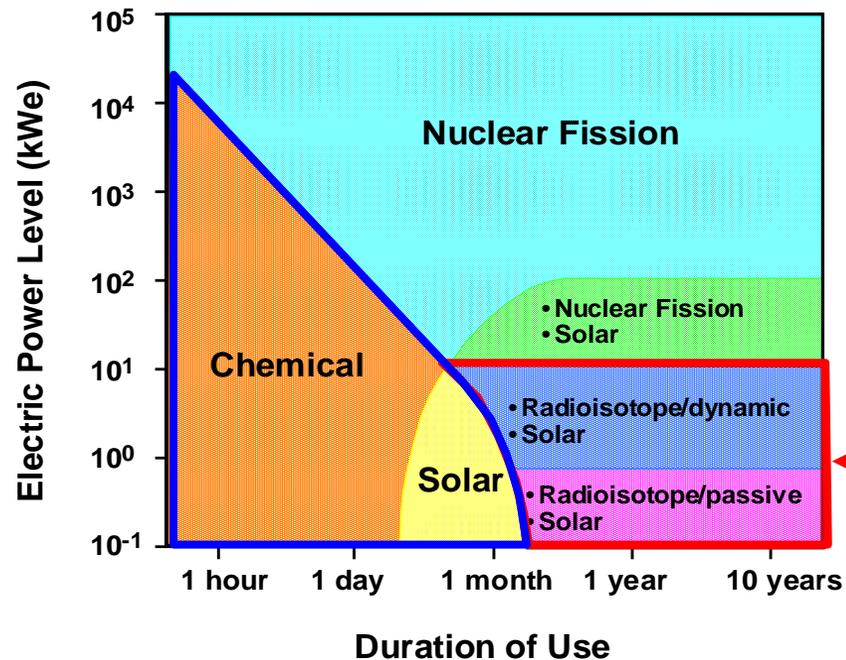
- Low to moderate power levels (~100 W - 1 kW) for more than several months
- Operations independent of distance and orientation with respect to Sun



Inherent limitation of solar power



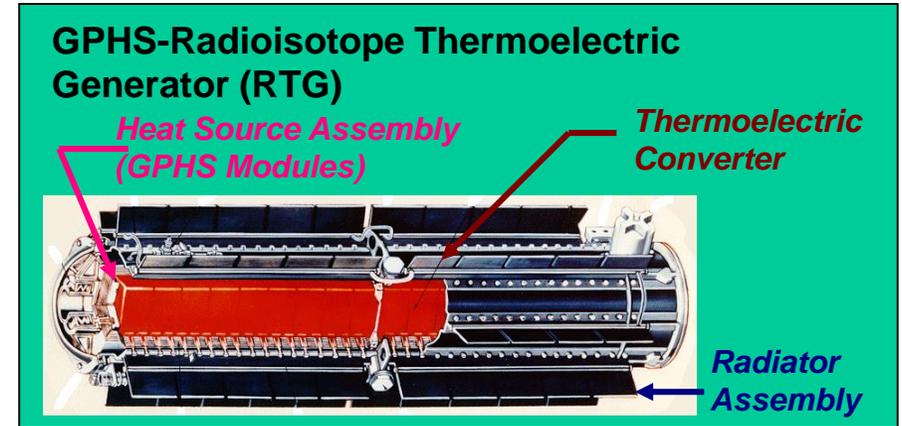
Best candidates for maximizing specific power



Multi-Mission RTG

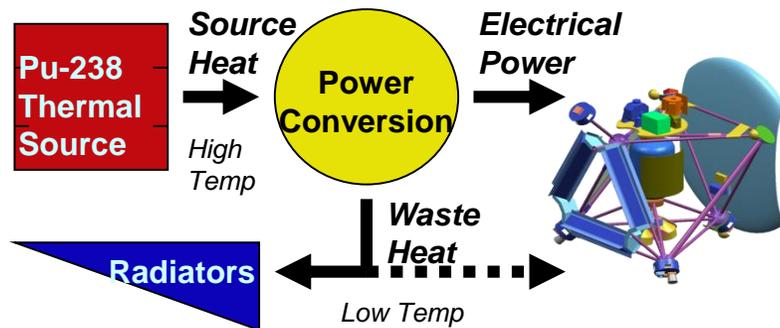
Overview of a Radioisotope Power System

- **High grade heat** produced from natural alpha (α) particle decay of Plutonium (Pu-238)
 - 87.7-year half-life
 - Heat source temperature ~ 1300 K
- Portion of **heat energy converted to electricity** via passive or dynamic thermal cycles (6%-35%)
 - Thermoelectric (existing & under development)
 - Stirling (under development)
 - Thermophotovoltaic, Brayton, etc. (future candidates)
- **Waste heat** rejected through radiators or a portion can be used for **thermal control of spacecraft subsystems**



Performance characteristics

- Specific power (W/kg) → Direct impact on science payload
- T/E efficiency → Reduces PuO₂ needs
- Power output → Supports diverse mission profiles



RTGs used successfully on 27 spacecrafts since 1961

- 11 Planetary (Pioneer 10 & 11, Voyager 1 & 2, Galileo, Ulysses, Cassini, New Horizons)
- 8 Earth Orbit (Transit, Nimbus, LES)
- 5 Lunar Surface (Apollo ALSEP), 3 Mars Surface (Viking, MSL/Curiosity)

CASSINI Spacecraft to Saturn (1997-2017)

- Liquid Rivers & Lakes of Ethane & Methane Over Frozen Water
 - Ethane and Methane “Rains” in Atmosphere (Pressure Slightly Higher than ~1 atm)
 - Methane Atmosphere ~5% Methane – Geologic Processes Replacing Methane
- Flew Cassini spacecraft into Saturn on 15 September 2017 (Final Dive)
 - **Grand Finale** - 22 passes between ~2500-km gap between inner rings / Saturn’s upper atmosphere
 - Velocity during inner ring passages 121,000-126,000 kmph
 - RTG Power Degradation shown below – 32% over 20 years
 - Lost Cassini signal 1400 km above clouds

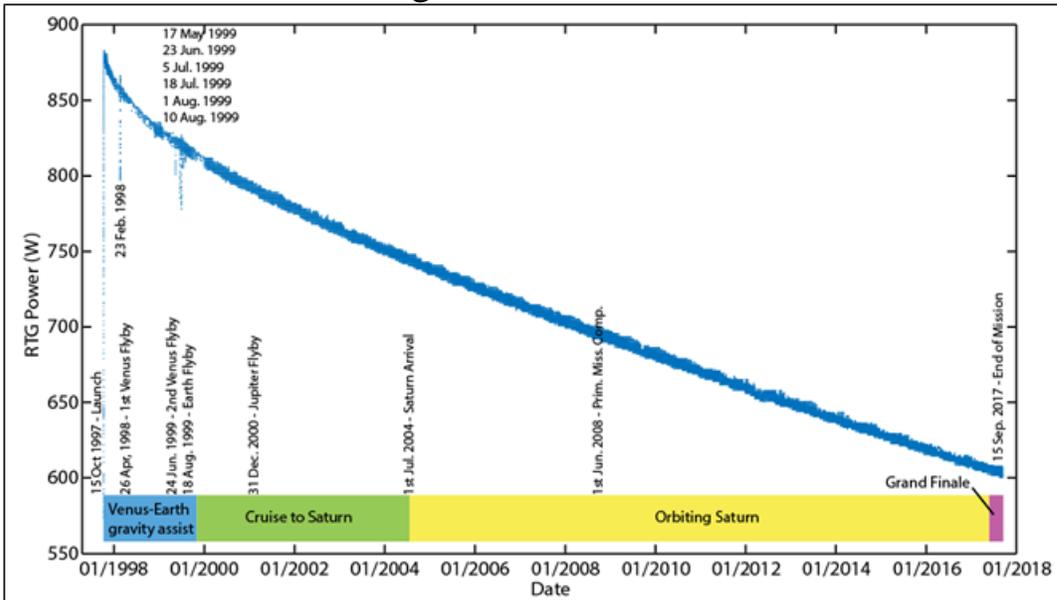
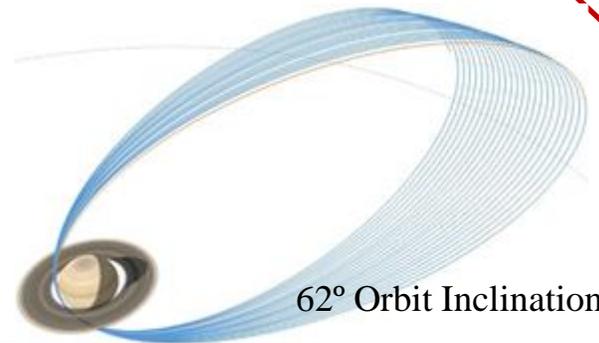
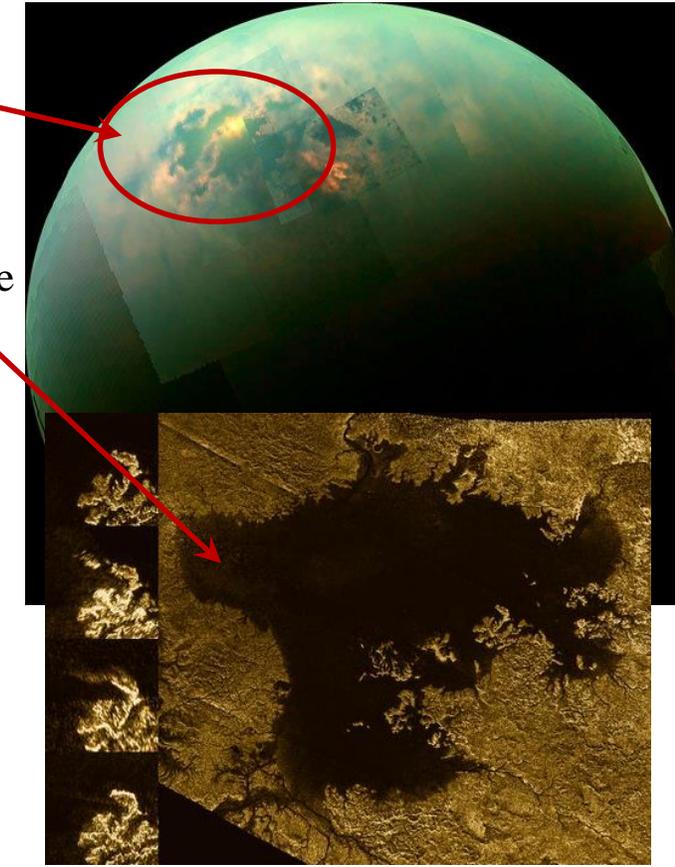


Fig. 1. Cassini recorded power output telemetry data over the entire mission between launch and EOM. The data is divided into four mission phases: The Venus-Earth gravity assist, the cruise to Saturn, orbiting Saturn



Picture of Earth from Cassini at Saturn

RTG Power Made this All Possible
SiGe TE Materials



New Horizons to Pluto (2006-Continuing)

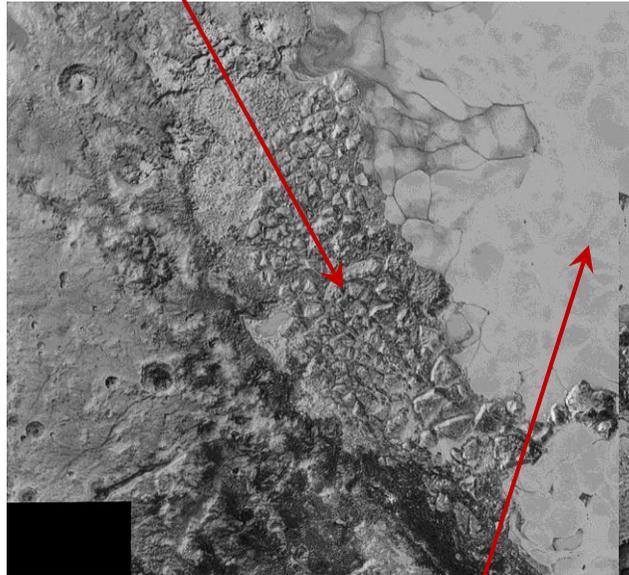


Heart of Pluto

With Love,
Pluto

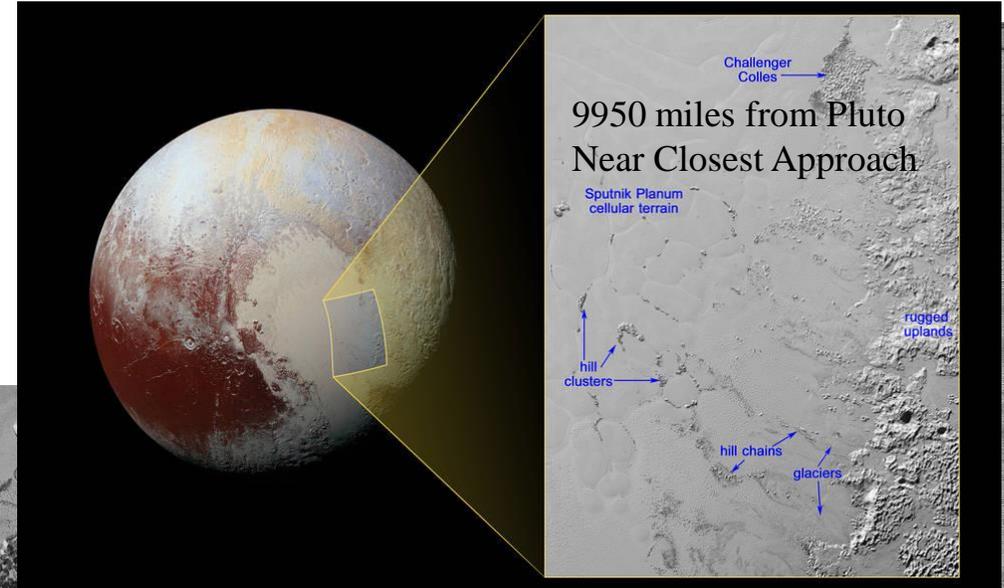
476,000 miles from Pluto

Large region of jumbled,
broken terrain



Vast, Icy Plain – Sputnik Planum
50,000 miles from Pluto

300 mile wide image, smallest features 0.5
mile wide



10,000 miles from Pluto

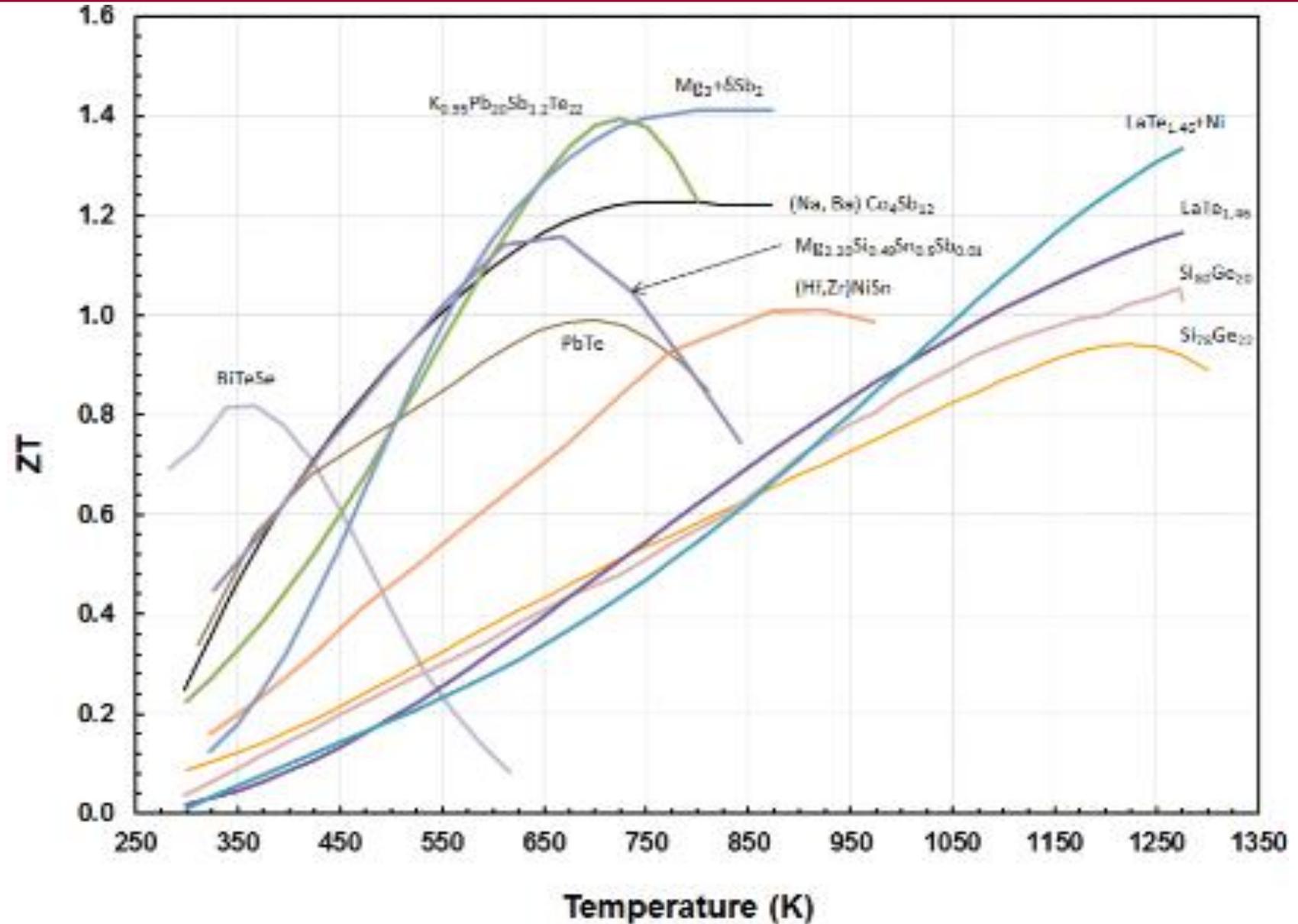
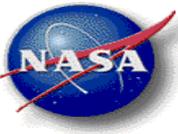
Water ice hills are floating in a sea of frozen Nitrogen

**RTG Power Made this All Possible
SiGe TE Materials**



New Generation of "Mature" Advanced TE Materials

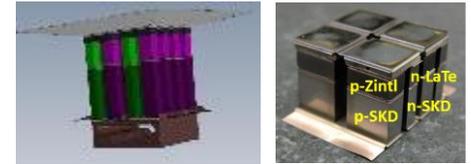
Large performance gains over heritage PbTe & Si-Ge alloys





Next Generation RTG Technologies

Remaining Challenges for Achieving Low Power Degradation Rates



ATEC Segmented Module Technology Advancement

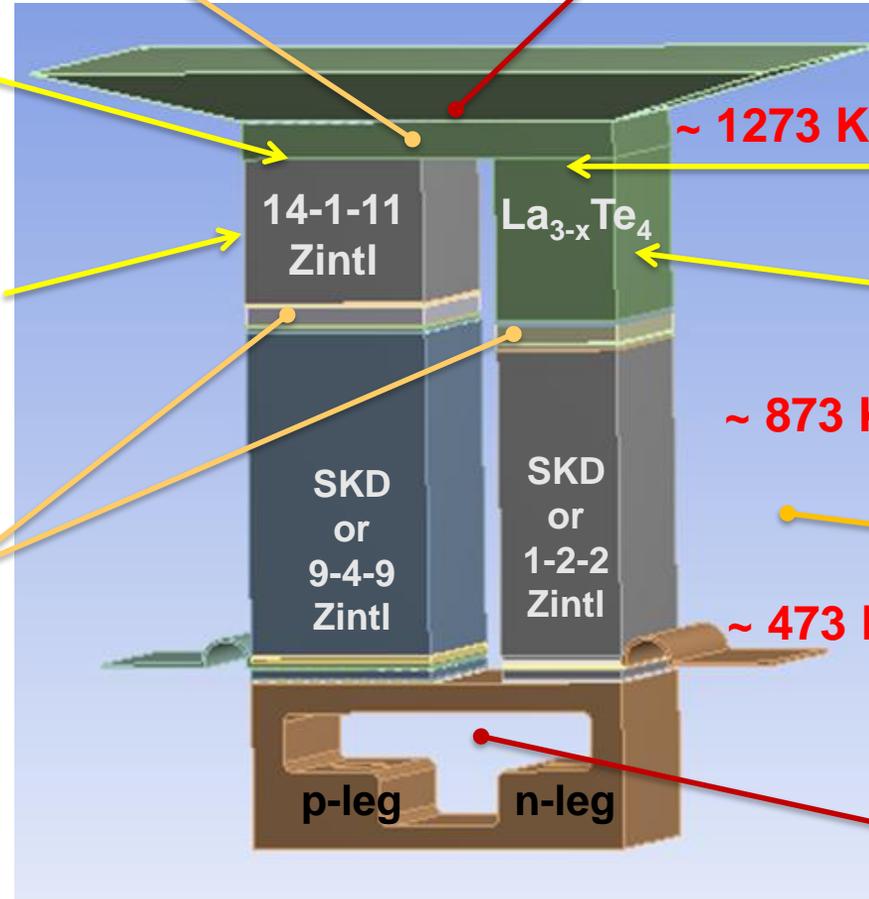
Alternate interconnect material(s)

Hot shoe with dielectric layer (modules)

Mechanically robust & chemically stable, hot side interface for 14-1-11 Zintl and composites

Strengthening and stable TE properties for 14-1-11 Zintl and composites

Mechanically compliant, high electrical/thermal conduction segment interfaces



Mechanically robust hot side interface for $La_{3-x}Te_4$ and composites

Strengthening and stable TE properties for $La_{3-x}Te_4$ composites

Aerogel thermal insulation / sublimation suppression

Cold shoe with dielectric layer (cantilevered devices, modules)

Development needed

In progress

LaTe composites have starting particle sizes of 80 nm – 150 nm range, and after synthesis process it increases to submicron – 10's of microns in finished bulk

Next-Generation RTGs for NASA – Concepts

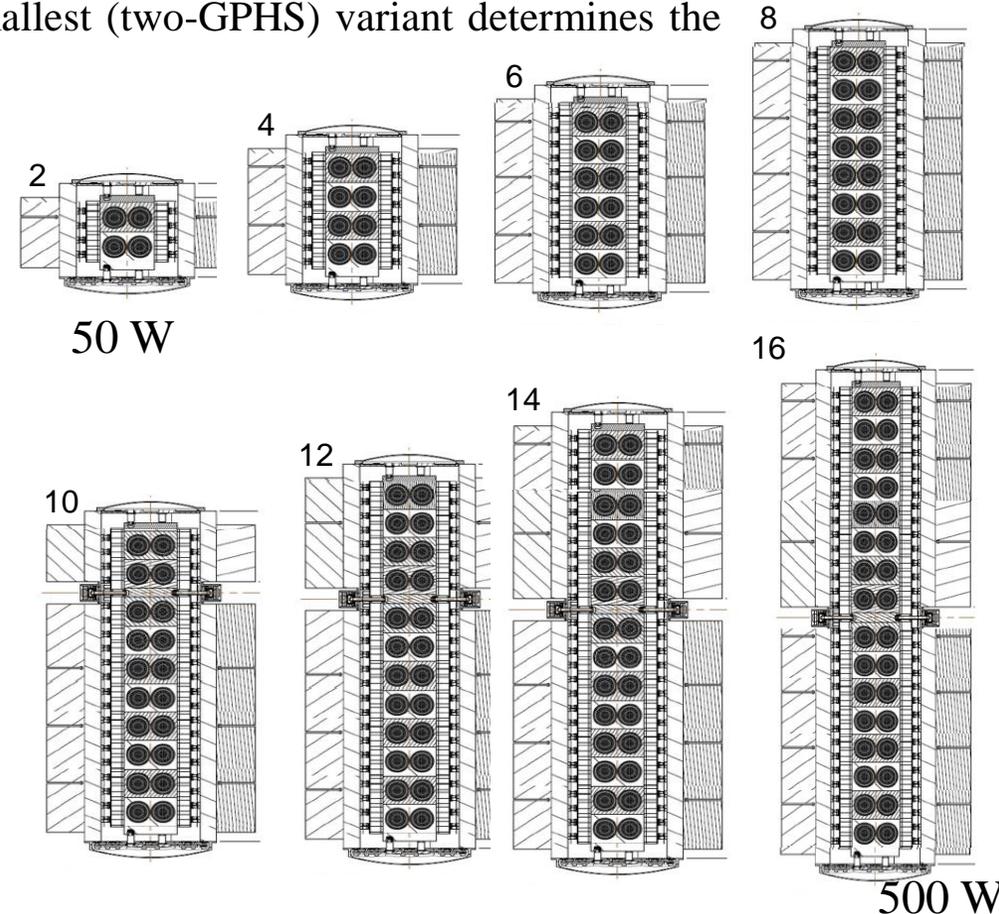
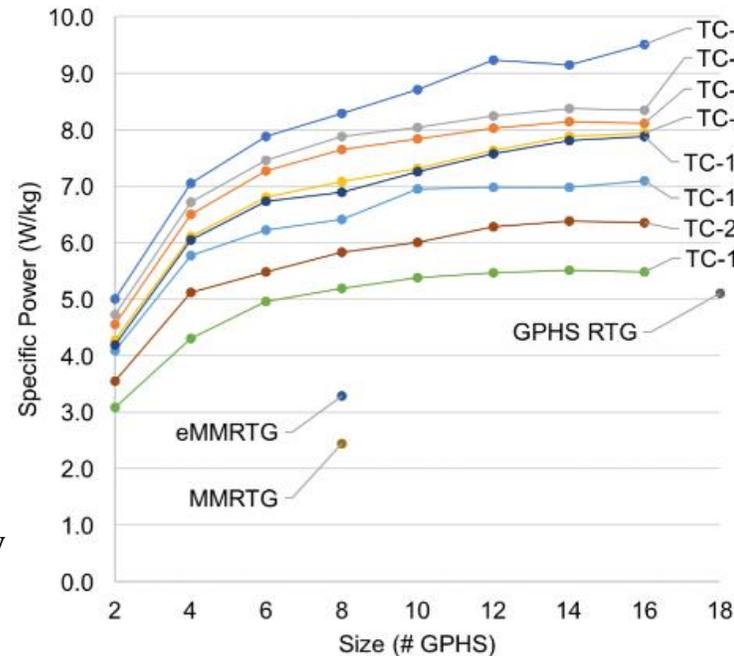
- Types of *new* RTG Concepts:

- Vacuum Only
 - Segmented (TECs)
 - Cold Segmented
 - Segmented-Modular
 - Cold Segmented-Modular
- Vacuum and Atmosphere
 - Hybrid Segmented-Modular
 - Cold Hybrid Segmented-Modular

- Typically, NASA spacecraft power busses have been designed to operate in the range of **22 to 36 V**.
- A two-GPHS unit was determined to be the **smallest SMRTG variant** capable of supporting the necessary number of TECs to meet the specified voltage requirement.
- This basic architecture would be electrically **integrated in parallel** for larger variants, such that the smallest (two-GPHS) variant determines the output voltage.

- Variants: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 GPHS

- Output Voltage ~34 Vdc

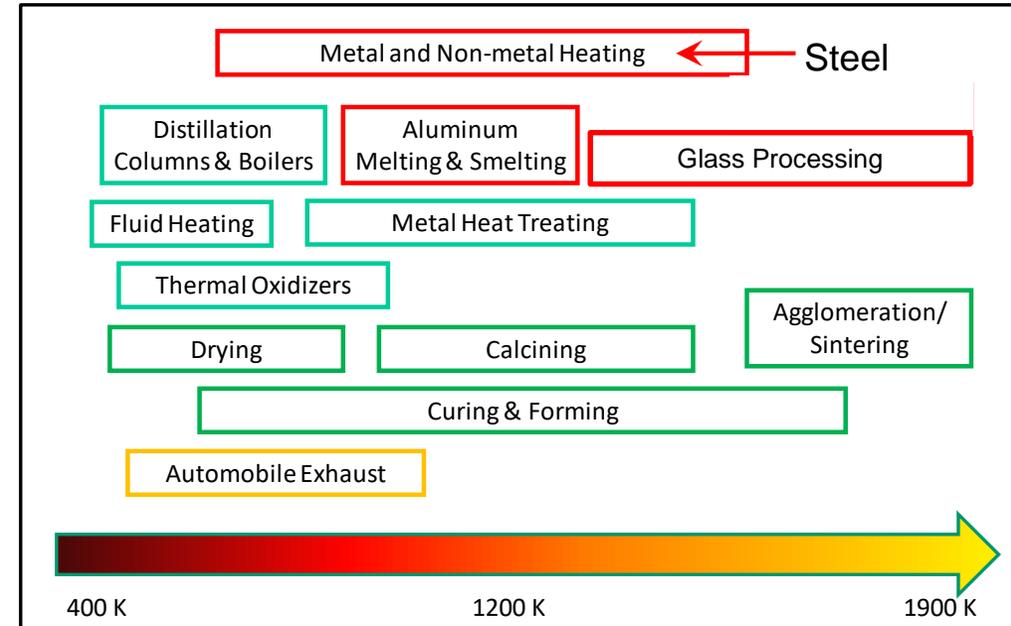


Pre-Decisional Information -- For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only



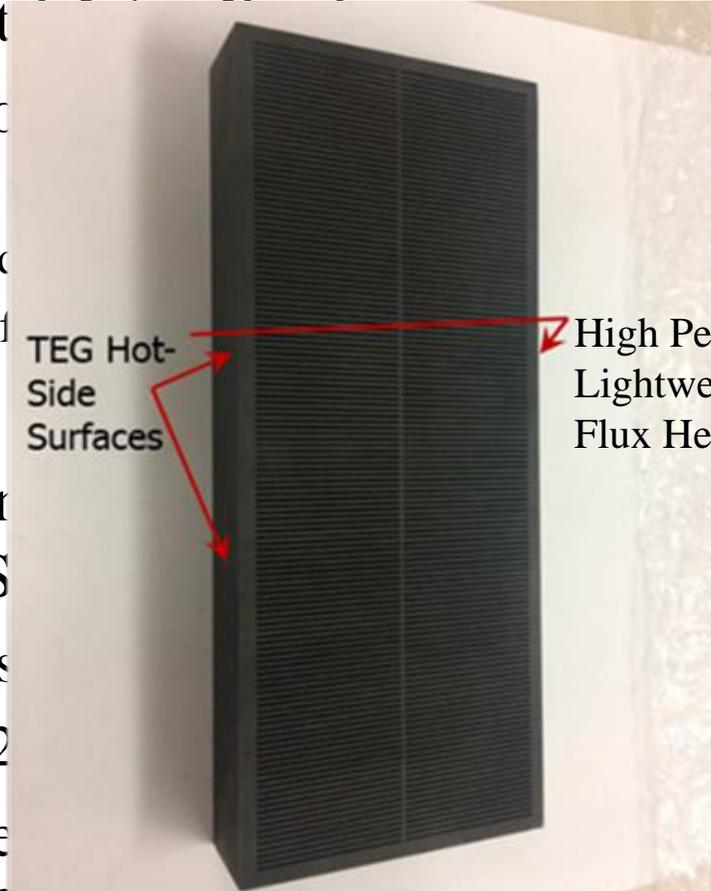
Industrial Process Energy Recovery Projects

- Project Goals are Often Tied to:
 - Energy Savings
 - Environmental Savings and Impacts
- Critical Peripheral Benefits Also Surface Beyond These Savings
 - Improved Product Quality (PACCAR Kenworth)
 - Improved Safety (Less Indoor Air Pollution)
 - Enhanced Product Throughput Due to Process Efficiency Increases
 - Enhanced Operational Efficiency (Less Water Use)
- Challenges:
 - Scaling Up to Industrial Processing Energy Flows
 - System Cost and Payback
 - Integrating into Industrial Processes Without Adversely Impacting Product Quality and Critical Metrics
 - High-Temperature Materials – Durability and Operational Maintenance
 - $\text{La}_{3-x}\text{Te}_4$, Zintl, Skutterudite TE Materials are One Solution
 - In Some Cases, Similar Source Temperature and Energy Flow Variability as in Automobile Applications
 - “Occupied” Volume and Compactness
 - JPL Working on Higher Power Density TE Solutions in Automotive and DARPA Programs



Terrestrial Waste Energy Recovery

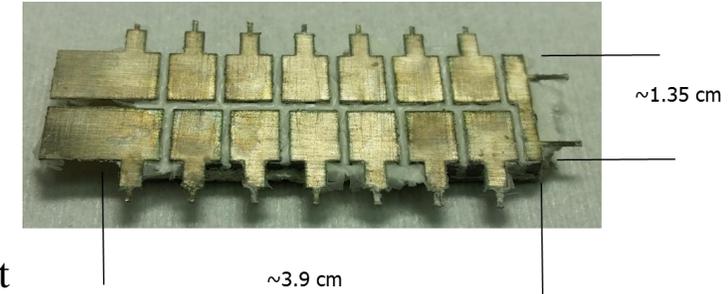
- Thermoelectric Systems Considered a Prime Energy Recovery Technology Candidate / Option in Many Terrestrial Applications
- Terrestrial Energy Recovery Applications:
 - Energy Savings
 - Environmental Savings and Reduction in Carbon Footprint
 - Maximizing Conversion Efficiency
 - Maximum Power Output
- However, JPL is Currently Focused on High Performance Designs Where the Critical Design Metric is Maximizing System Efficiency
 - Knowing Its Relationship to System Efficiency Points is Key
 - $T_{\text{exh}} = 823 \text{ K}$; $T_{\text{amb}} = 298 \text{ K}$
- In Addition, Key Barriers to Commercialization are High Performance Anymore as System-Level Cost (As Discussed in 2015 IEC, Dresden, Germany)



TEG Hot-Side Surfaces

High Performance, Lightweight, High Heat Flux Heat Exchanger

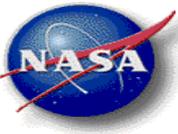
High Performance, High Power Flux Skutterudite TE Module Technology



~3.9 cm

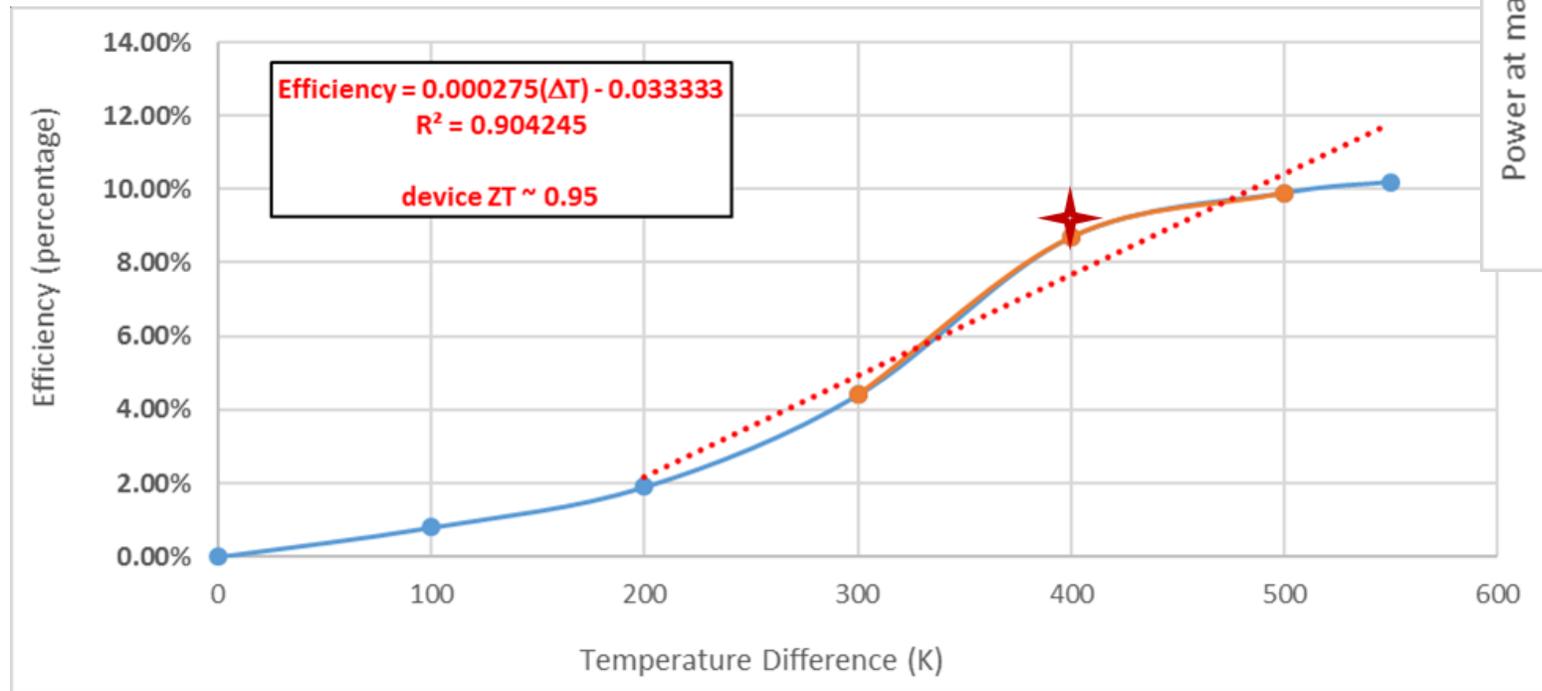
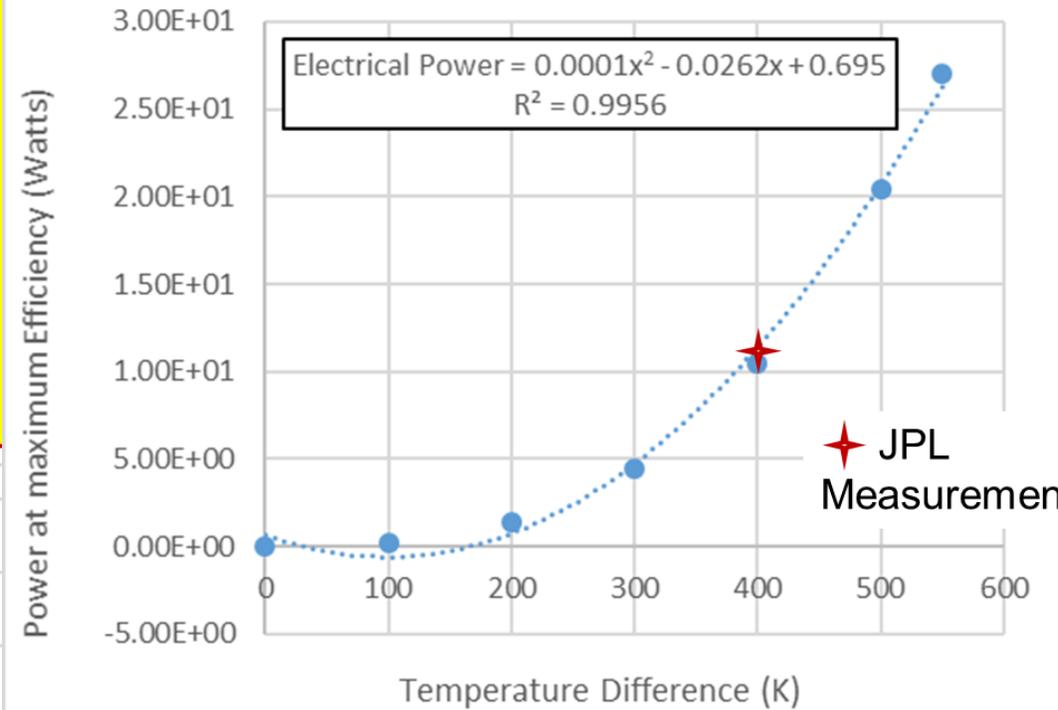
~1.35 cm

Cost Modeling and Integrating Cost Modeling With System-Level Performance Modeling is Critical



High Power Density TE Module Technology

- All-skutterudite module technology demonstrated
- High efficiency TE module demonstrated
- High Power \rightarrow High Power Density TE module demonstrated
- Highest power density demonstrated to date
- Exactly what is needed for various terrestrial energy recovery applications

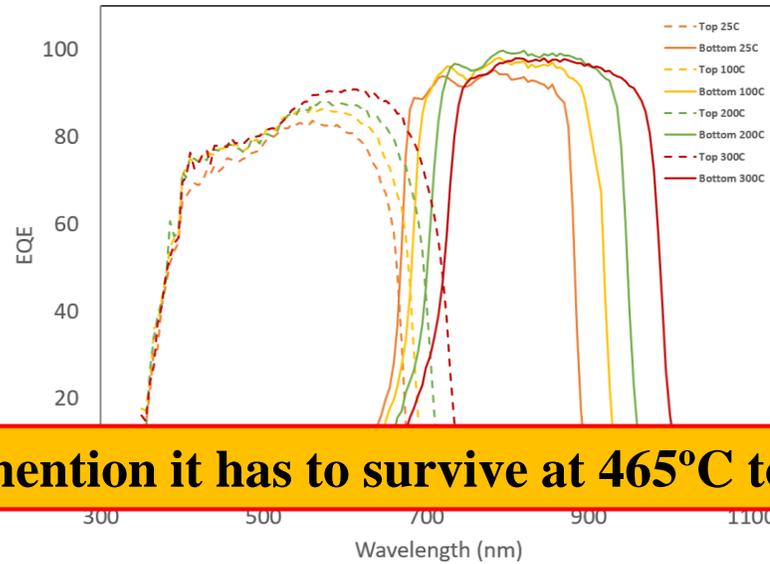
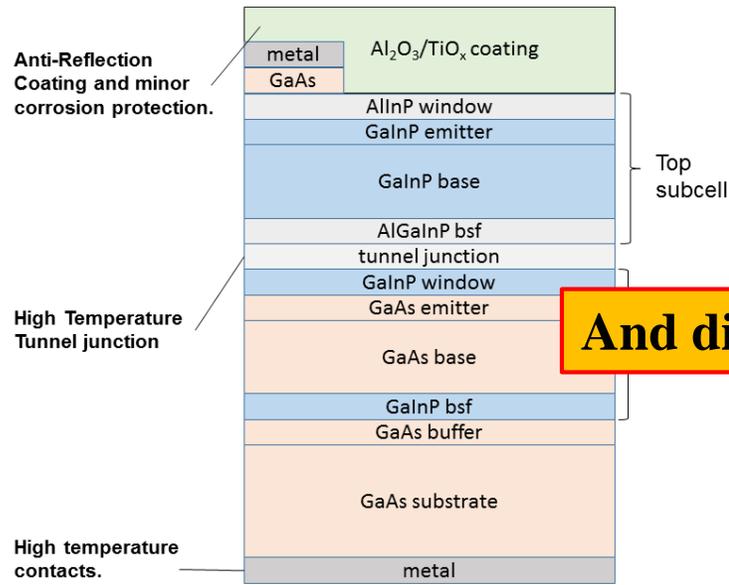


JPL is ready to work with industry to commercialize this technology

High Temperature Photovoltaics for Venus Atmosphere

Objective: Development of a Low-intensity high-temperature (LIHT) solar cells that can function and operate effectively in the Venus atmosphere (~300°C and 100-300 W/m² solar irradiance conditions).

Simplified cross-section schematic of a GaInP/GaAs 2J solar cell designed for high temperature operation.

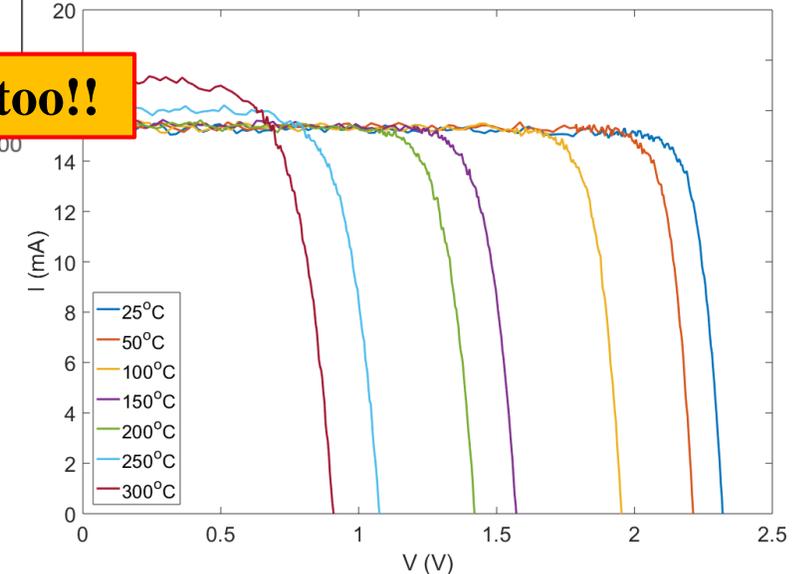


External Quantum Efficiency (EQE) measurement of a solar cell (Top junction and Bottom junction) between room temperature and 300°C

And did I mention it has to survive at 465°C too!!

JPL test capability simulates Venus temperature conditions

Current-voltage (IV) measurement of a solar cell between room temperature and 300°C



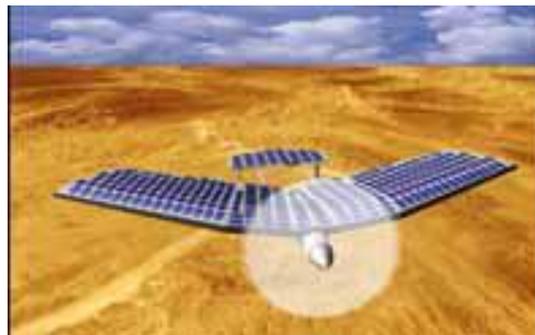
Solar cell modeling under the atmospheric conditions of Venus used to guide the ideal solar cell structure design – Current density matching of both layers

GaInP/GaAs 2J solar cells have initially shown promising performance under high temperature characterization

Grandidier et al., (2018) “Solar Cell Analysis Under Venus Atmosphere Conditions”, 2018 45th Solar Photovoltaic Specialist Conference, Waikoloa, HI. In Preparation

Potential Missions for Venus Explorations

- Extreme environments
 - Not habitable for human
 - Very hot environment (465°C)
 - Sulfuric acid environment
- Venus' high surface temperature overheat solar cells & electronics in spacecraft in a short time
- Potential Venus Missions – Aerial and Surface Missions
 - Venus Design Reference mission
 - Venus Climate Observer (planet C) – Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
 - Venus Express – European Space Agency (ESA)
- Want to determine what is there
 - Surface Heat Fluxes
 - Strong magnetic fields
 - Possible life in the extremely hot environment?



Examples of Venus aerial and surface mission concepts



Image of the planet taken by the Pioneer Venus Orbiter in 1979



Computer Simulated Global View of Venus

Biosensors - What is NASA/JPL Looking For?



The answers to these questions:

- Is there life elsewhere in the Universe?
- What is the future of life on Earth and beyond?

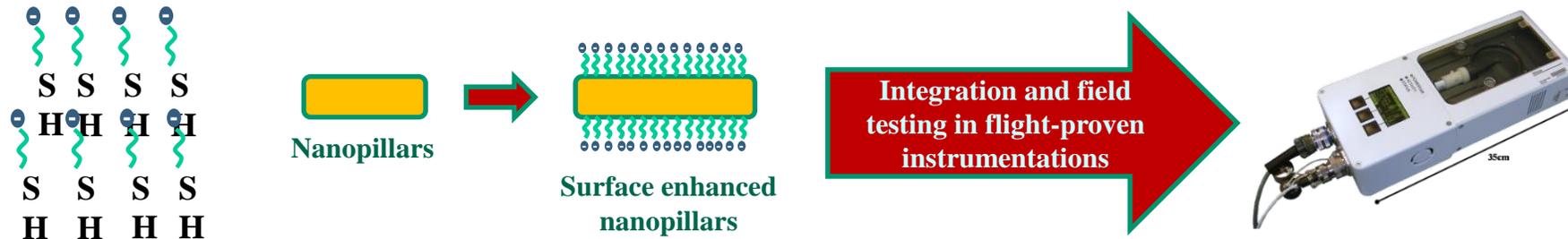
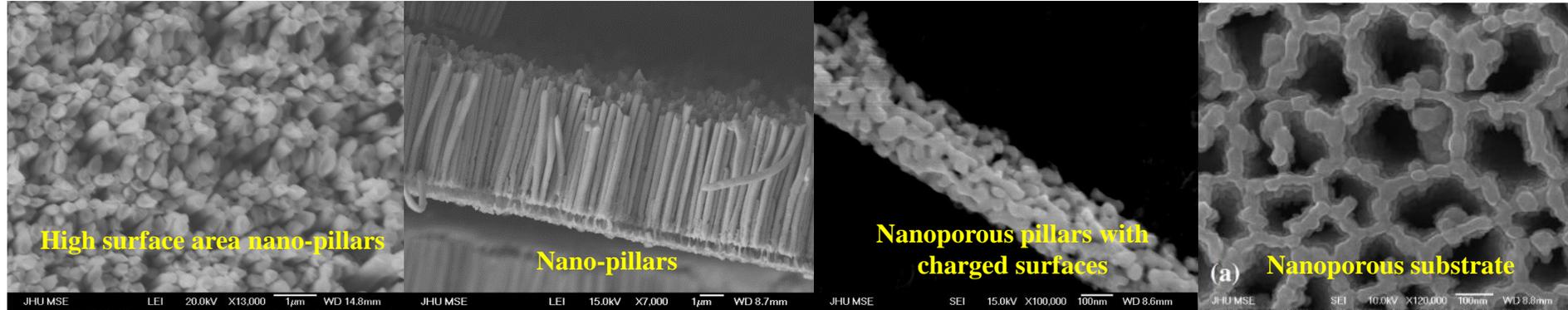
NASA's Habitable Worlds Program

- To identify the potentially habitable environments in the Solar System and beyond
- To explore the possibility of extant life beyond the earth
- Established the NASA Astrobiology Institute (NAI) to develop the field of astrobiology and provide scientific framework for future planetary exploration missions

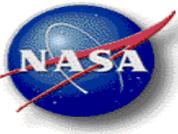


“When it comes to extraterrestrial life, no longer is the main question whether bodies like Mars or the outer Solar System’s icy moons could be habitable. Rather, researchers have moved on to determining how they can find evidence of life, past or present, through the [presence of bio-signatures and other techniques](#).”
Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon) 2017

Our Technology Development Approach

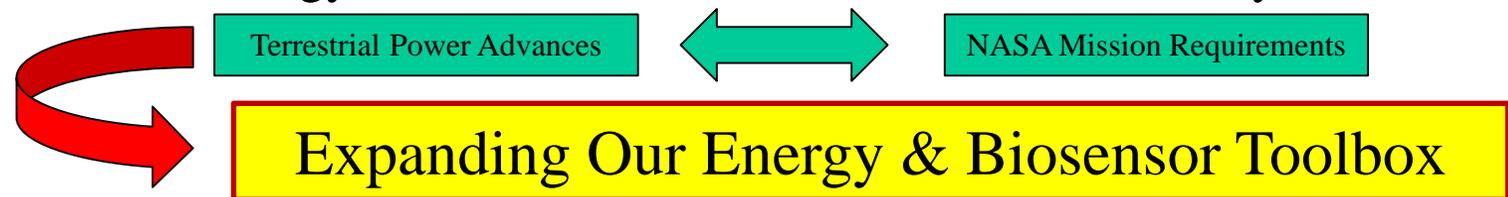


- Novel engineered nanostructured electrodes can be **retrofitted** into spacecraft-proven sensing platforms
 - Enhanced surface area of the substrate to **~1000 m²/g**
 - Electrode materials:
 - Au, Ag, Cu, Pd, Pt, shape memory alloys (SMAs), Ti-based alloys, CoCr alloys, and doped or un-doped biocompatible semiconducting materials
 - Tailor the surface porosity and morphology using various techniques
 - Enhance sensitivity and selectivity



Final Thoughts & Conclusions

- NASA Power System and Biosensor Development Provides Direct Technology Pathway to Terrestrial “Energy Recovery” Power Systems and Biosensor Applications
- Maybe a 10-20 Year Lag – Getting Shorter Every Year
- Terrestrial Power Has Many Similar Requirements as Spacecraft Systems
 - Cost is Always An Issue
 - Space Environments More Extreme Than Terrestrial (Hot - Venus & Cold – Mars & Beyond)
 - Terrestrial Applications Have Severe Cost & Environmental Requirements
 - Spacecraft Power System Materials in Large Quantities in Earth-Based Applications Can Sometimes Cause Severe Issues on Earth
 - System Costs Generally Need to approach \$1-3/W to be Competitive – TE WHR Power System Costs are Often Heat Exchanger Driven
 - JPL’s latest advancements in high-power-density TE module technology & high performance heat exchangers trying to address needs
- Biosensor technology based on nanopillars and nanoporous structures
- Goal is to Transition Terrestrial Technology Advances Back into NASA Missions & Systems





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

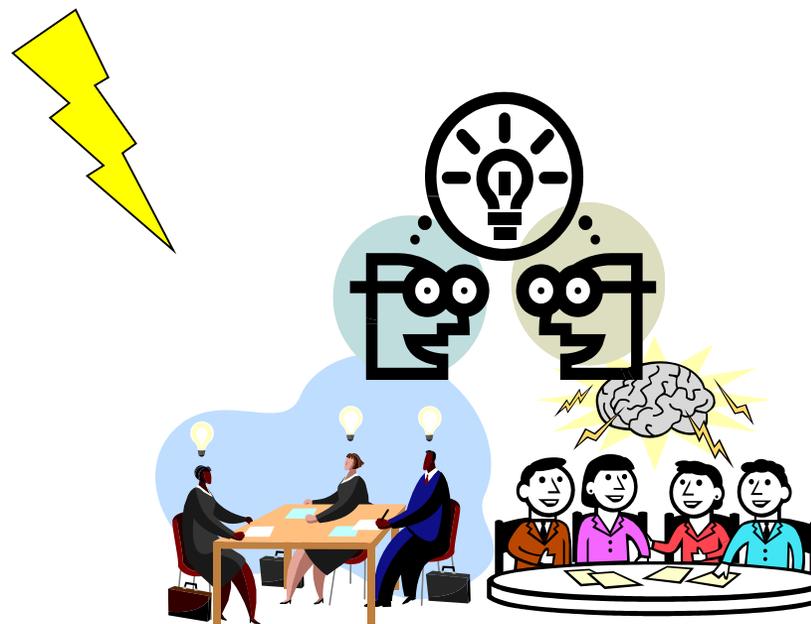
This work was carried out at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Thank you for your interest and attention



Some People See the World as It Is and Ask Why..... I Dream What Has
Never Been and Ask Why Not? Robert F. Kennedy, 1968

Questions & Discussion





2018 IDTechEx Show! Berlin CEO Dinner Berlin, Germany

Next-Generation Power and Sensor Technologies: Dual Space-Terrestrial Applications

Dr. Terry J. Hendricks, P.E., ASME Fellow¹

¹ Technical Group Supervisor, Thermal Energy Conversions Applications & Systems Group

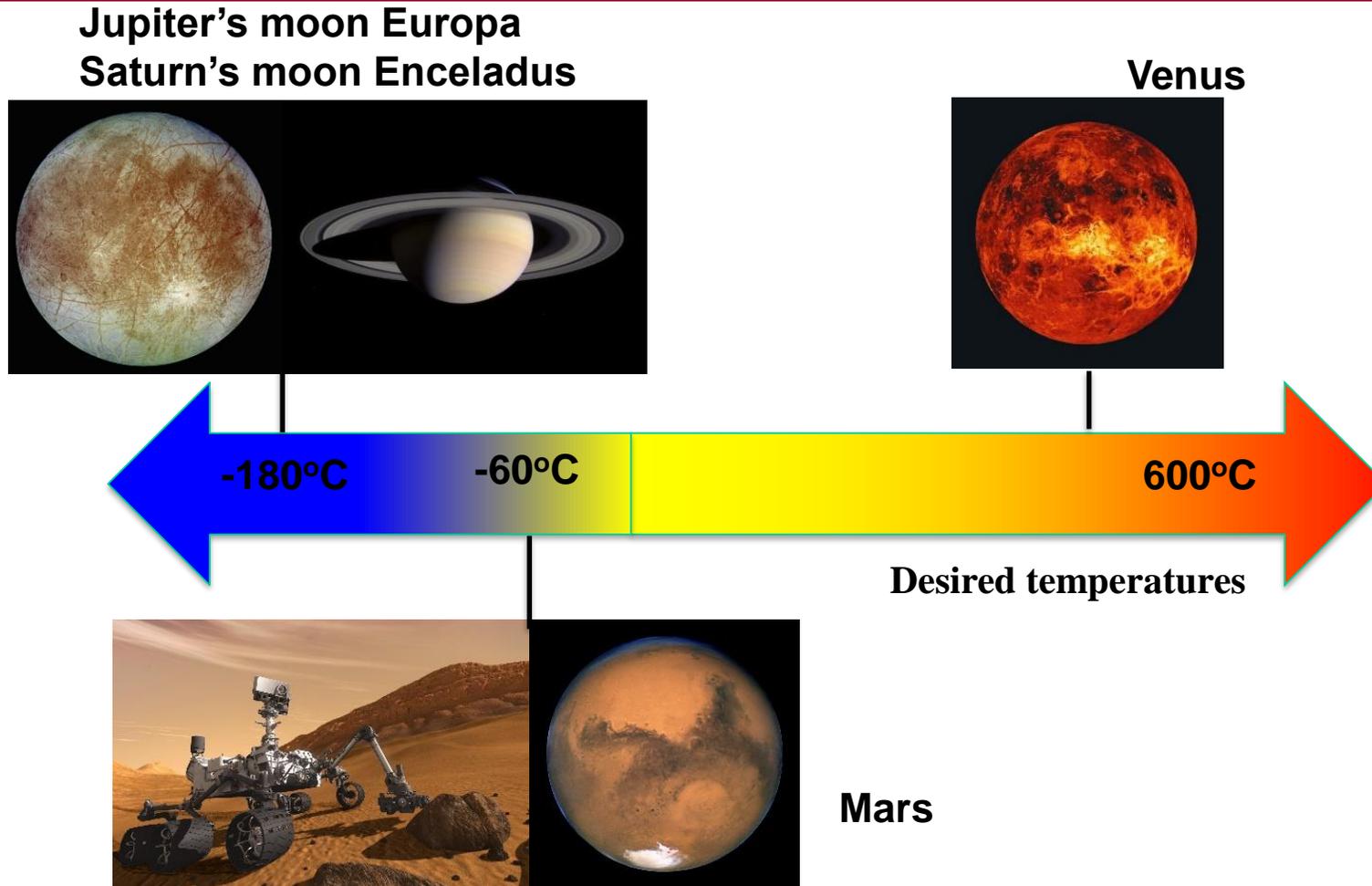
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

Pasadena, California, USA



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

Extreme Environments

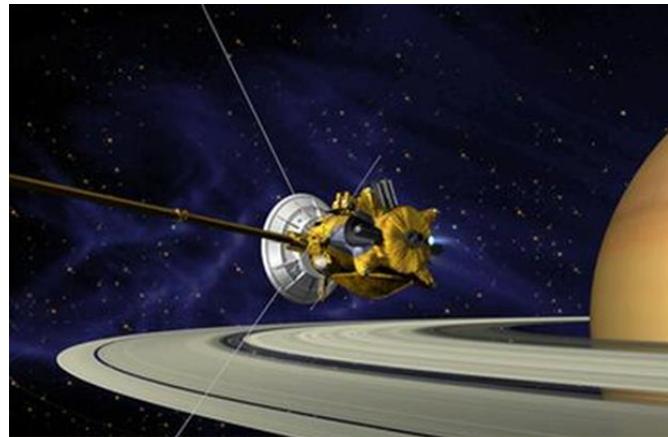
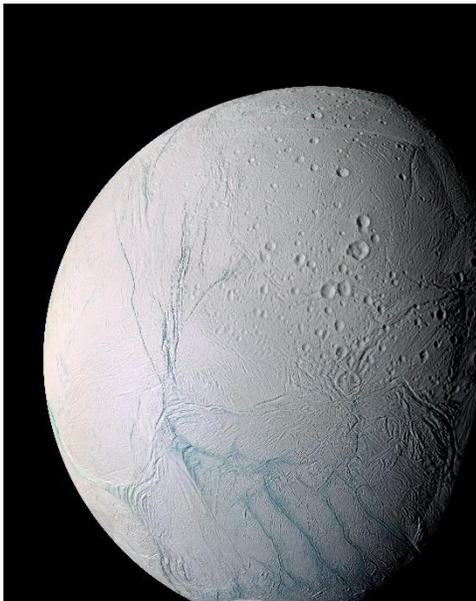


Extreme environmental conditions for planetary missions (e.g., temperatures, gravity, thermal shock, radiation, and chemical attack)

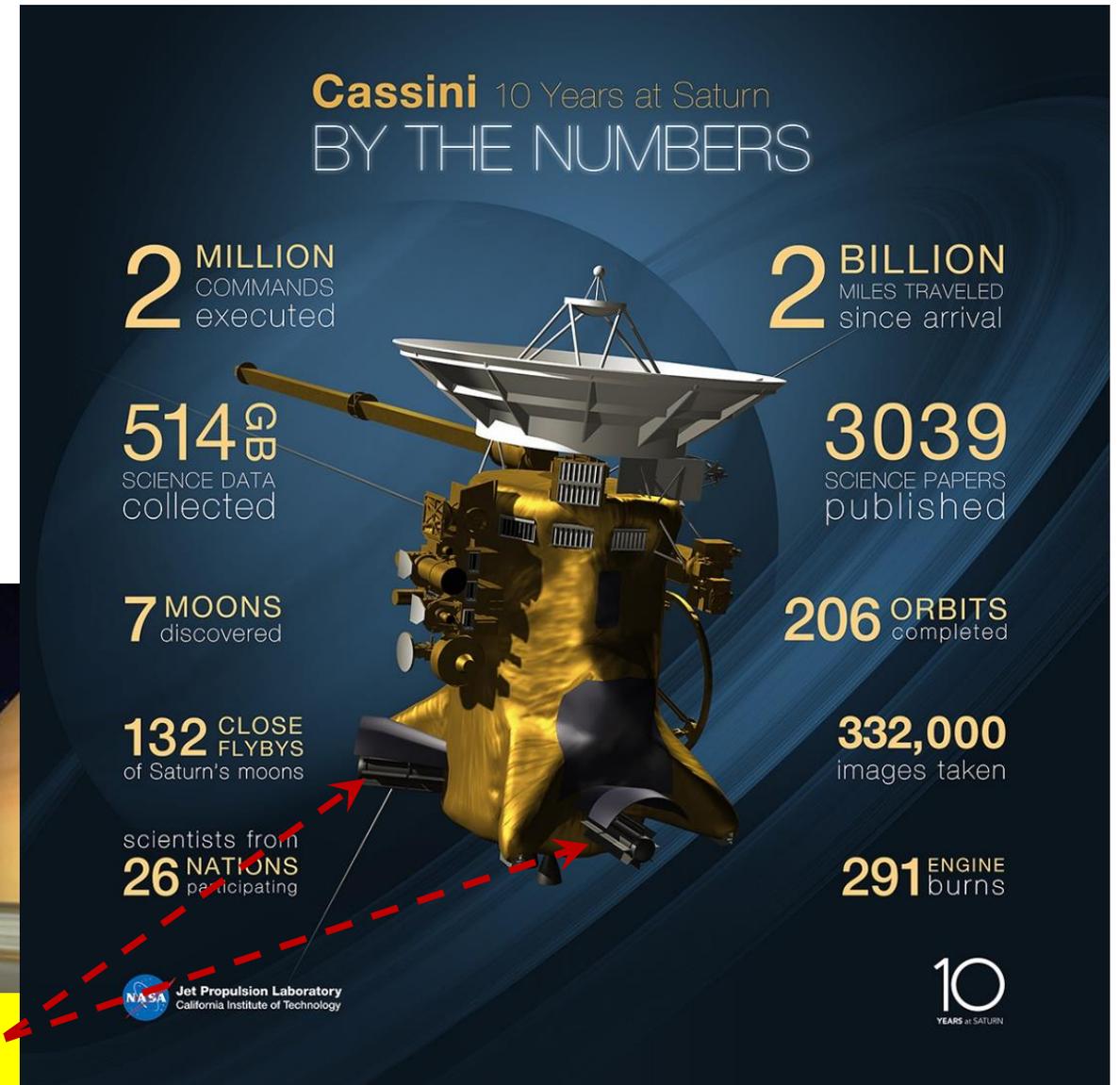
CASSINI Spacecraft to Saturn (October 15th, 1997 to September 15th, 2017)



- Vastly Updated Science on Saturn's Rings
- Incredible Science on Saturn's Moon Titan
 - **Many Earth-Like Processes**
 - Liquid Rivers & Lakes of Ethane & Methane Over Frozen Water
 - Salty Brine Ocean Under Icy Crust
 - Liquid Water and Ammonia Ocean ~100km Below Frozen Crust
- Likewise, Saturn's Moon Enceladus
 - **Liquid Water Beneath its Icy, Snowy Crust**
 - Geologic Activity – Ice & Water Crystal Plumes at its South Pole

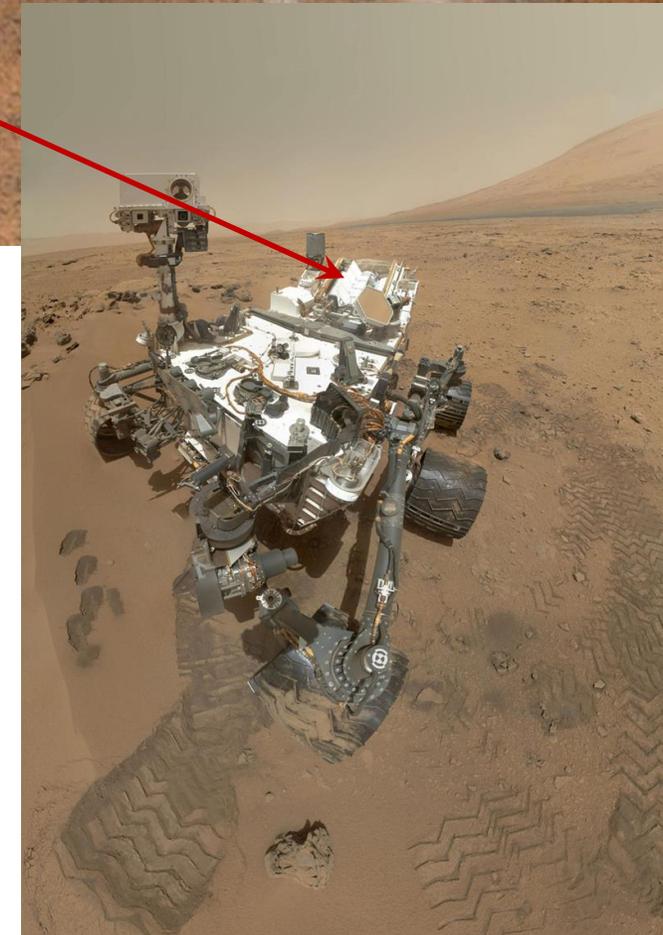
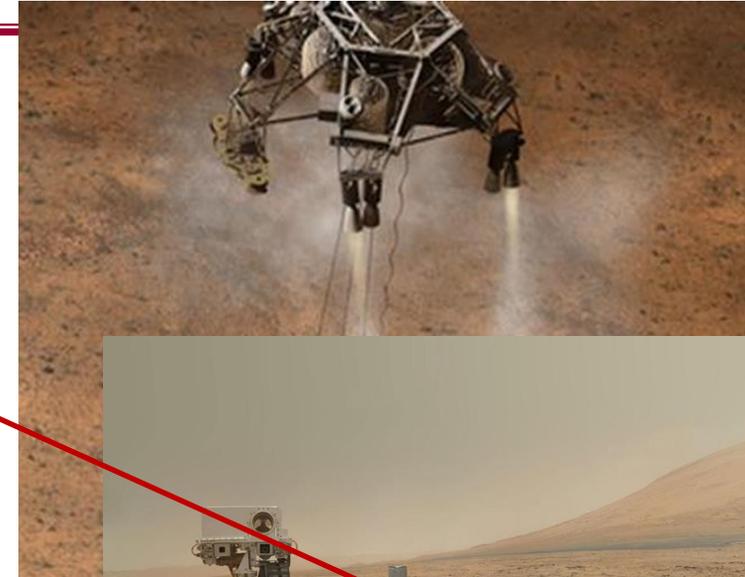


RTG Power Made this All Possible
SiGe TE Materials



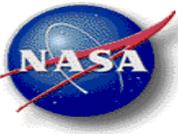
MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY (2012)

- Landed the Curiosity Rover on Mars in 2012 – Sky Crane
- About the Size of a Small Car (~2000 lbs)
- Radioisotope-Driven Thermoelectric Generator (RTG) Used to Power Curiosity
- Spent the Last 2 Years Investigating the Geology on Mars
- 1st Year on Mars - Discovered Strong Evidence of Prior Water on Mars
 - 3.5 Billion Years Ago We Think Mars Had Rivers, Lakes, & “Oceans”
 - Theory – Lost Its Magnetic Field & Atmosphere was Ultimately Destroyed
- Spent Last Year “Driving” from Landing Site to Mt. Sharp
 - 3-mile High Martian Mountain
 - Currently in the Foothills of Mt. Sharp
- Geology on Mars Similar to Earth

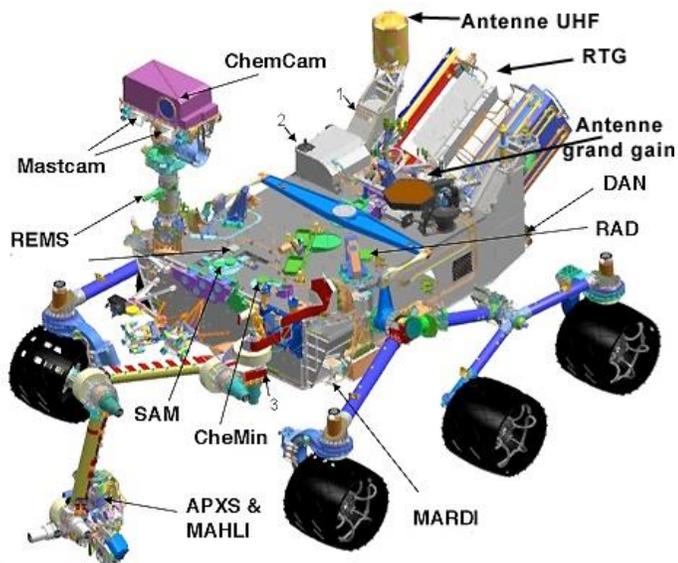


RTG Power With Heritage TE Materials Made this All Possible
TAGS, PbSnTe, PbTe TE Materials – Segmented Elements

NASA's Mars Science Laboratory



- Landed the Curiosity Rover on Mars in 2012 - Sky Crane
 - About the Size of a Small Car (~2000 lbs)
 - Radioisotope-Driven Thermoelectric Generator (RTG) Used to Power Curiosity
- Curiosity set out to find out if Mars ever had the right environmental conditions to support small life forms (microbes)
 - Curiosity's *in situ* scientific tools found chemical and mineral evidence of past habitable environments (Rivers, Lakes, & "Oceans") on Mars



Cameras:

- Mast Camera (MastCam), Mars Hand Lens Imager (MAHLI), Mars Descent Imager (MARDI)

Spectrometers:

- Alpha Particle X-ray spectrometer (APXS), Chemistry and Camera complex (ChemCam), Chemistry and Mineralogy (CheMin), Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM)

Radiation Detectors:

- Radiation assessment detector (RAD), Dynamic Albedo of Neutrons (DAN)

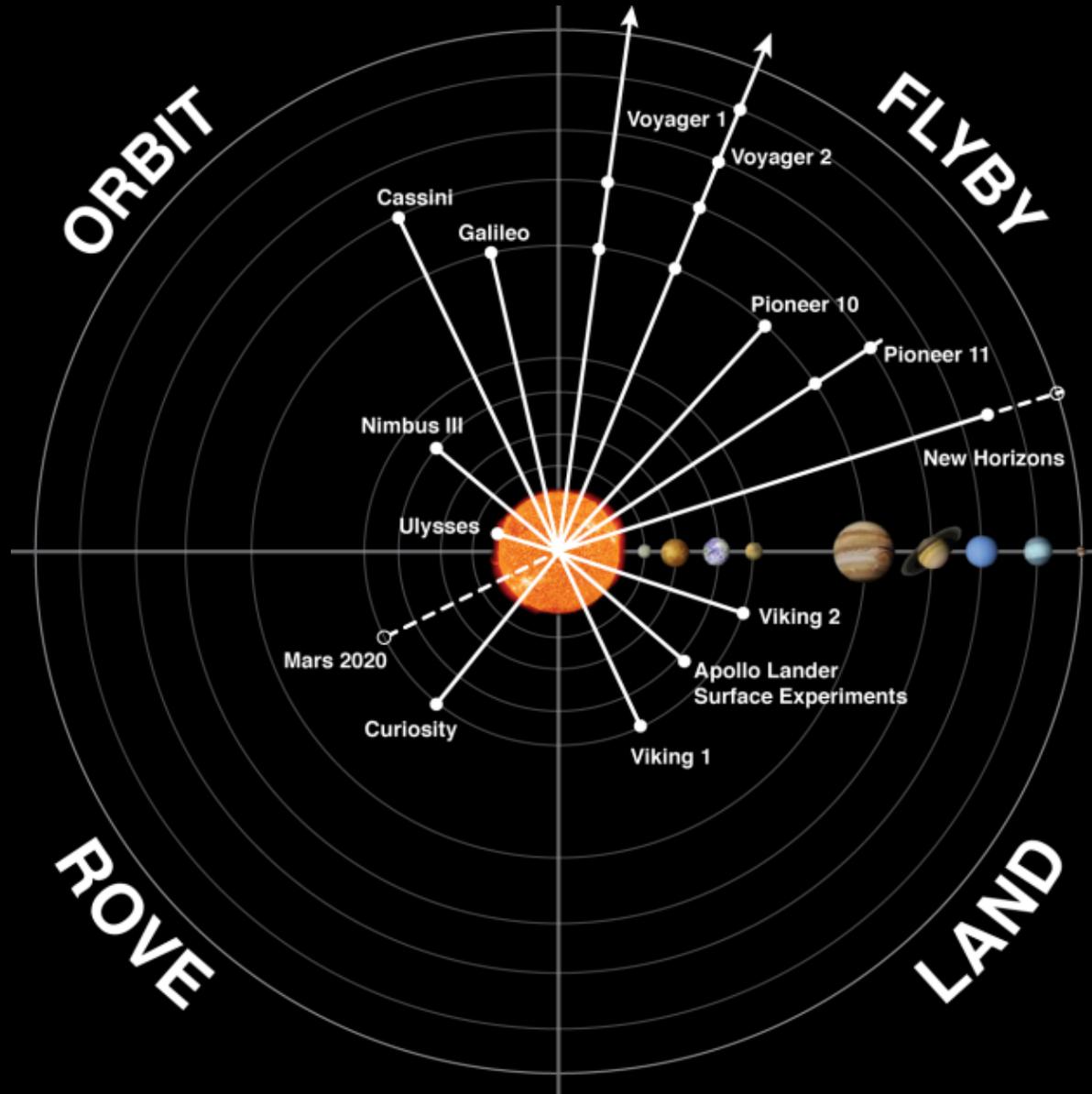
Environmental Sensors:

- Rover Environmental Monitoring Station (REMS)

Atmospheric Sensors:

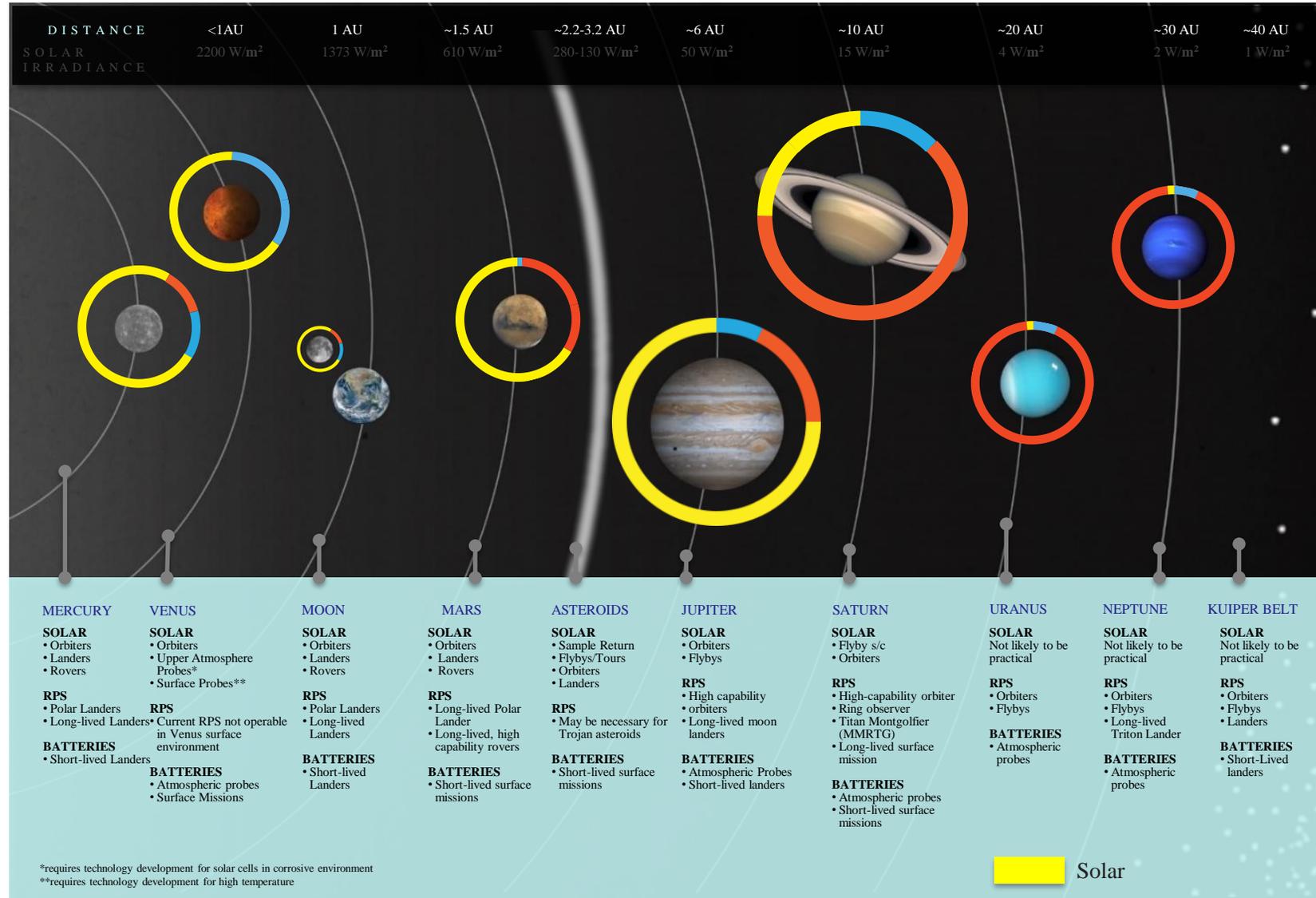
- Mars Science Laboratory Entry Descent and Landing Instrument (MEDLI)

Over 50 years of RPS Missions





POWER TECHNOLOGIES APPLICABLE TO SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORATION MISSION CONCEPTS AS OF 2015⁽¹⁾



*requires technology development for solar cells in corrosive environment
**requires technology development for high temperature



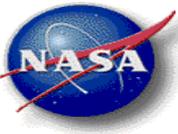
(1) Notional mission applicability based on expert opinion developed in JPL A-Team study in August, 2015

Pre-Decisional Information — For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

Prefer low power consuming scientific instruments/sensors

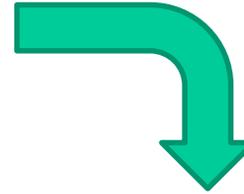


Imagine, Innovate, “Instigate” to Real-World Applications



1

39,000 m Up at Edge of Space
Mach 1.25

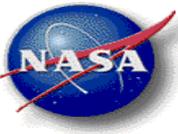


Looks Like Space to Me!!



1

So Talking About Dual-Use Technologies



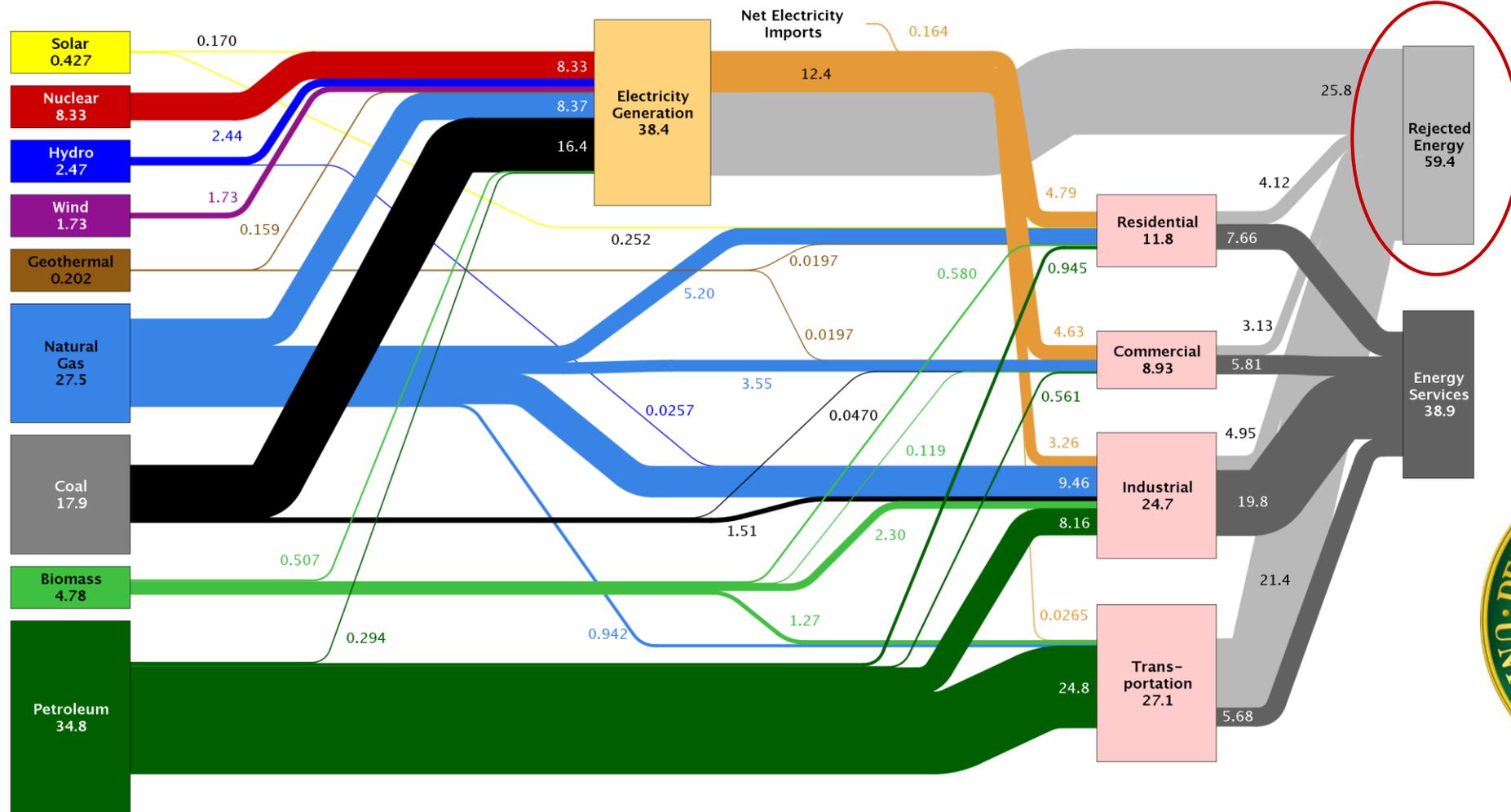
Driving MegaTrends

- Energy Usage Increasing Due to Population
 - Energy Efficiency Necessary to Enable Energy Savings
- CO₂ Emissions Increasing – Climate Change
 - Energy Savings = Environmental Emissions Savings
 - e.g. 1 kg CO₂ / 1 kW-hour for Coal-Fired Power Production
 - Natural Gas emissions about ½ of that
- Energy Market Uncertainty
 - Geopolitical & Volatile Market Pricing
- Information Technology & Flow
 - Sensor Systems – Our Compulsion with More & More Sensor Networks
 - Social Media Effects
 - Personal Information Risks
- Rate of Innovation Much Increased
- Health and BioMedical Progress – People Living Longer



United States Energy Flow

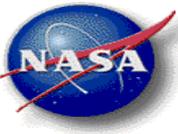
Estimated U.S. Energy Use in 2014: ~98.3 Quads



- Waste Heat To Be “Harvested” 59.4 Quads
- Up ~ 5Quads From 2009



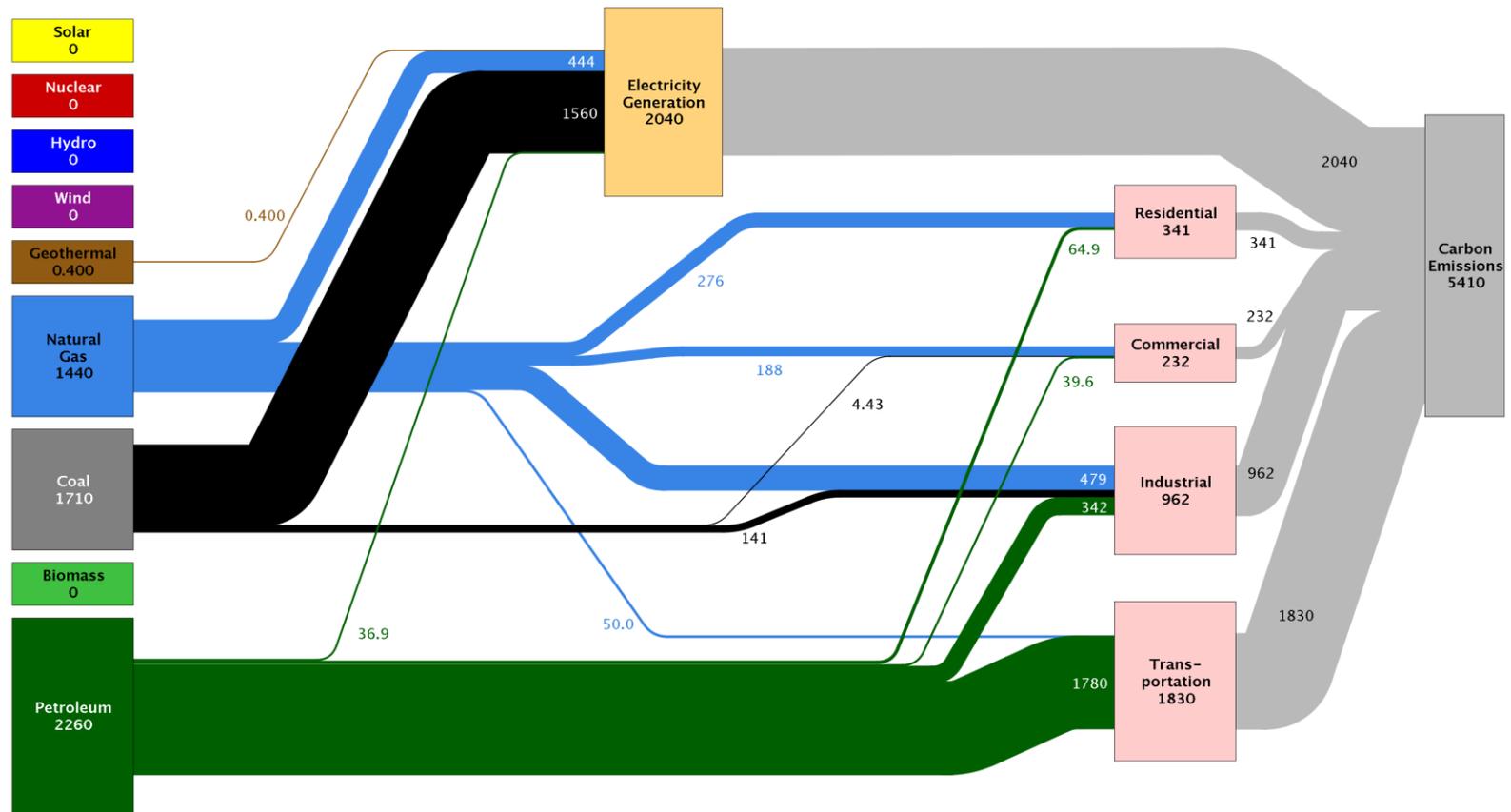
Source: LLNL 2015. Data is based on DOE/EIA-0035(2015-03), March, 2014. If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Energy, under whose auspices the work was performed. Distributed electricity represents only retail electricity sales and does not include self-generation. EIA reports consumption of renewable resources (i.e., hydro, wind, geothermal and solar) for electricity in BTU-equivalent values by assuming a typical fossil fuel plant “heat rate.” The efficiency of electricity production is calculated as the total retail electricity delivered divided by the primary energy input into electricity generation. End use efficiency is estimated as 65% for the residential and commercial sectors 80% for the industrial sector, and 21% for the transportation sector. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. LLNL-MI-410527



Environmental Effects Are Strongly Tied to Our Energy Use

- ~1 kg of CO₂ produced per 1 kWhr (Coal Produced Power)
- ~0.5 kg of CO₂ is produced for 1 kWhr (Natural Gas Power)

Estimated U.S. Carbon Emissions in 2014: ~5,410 Million Metric Tons 



Source: LLNL 2015. Data is based on DOE/EIA-0035(2015-03), March, 2015. If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Energy, under whose auspices the work was performed. Carbon emissions are attributed to their physical source, and are not allocated to end use for electricity consumption in the residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors. Petroleum consumption in the electric power sector includes the non-renewable portion of municipal solid waste. Combustion of biologically derived fuels is assumed to have zero net carbon emissions - the lifecycle emissions associated with producing biofuels are included in commercial and industrial emissions. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding errors. LLNL-MI-410527

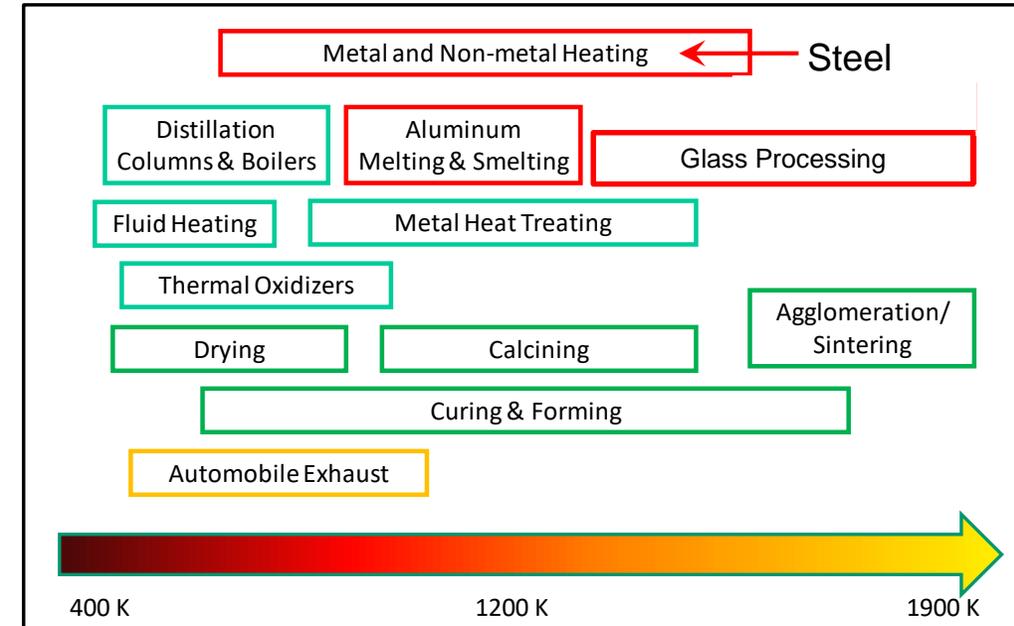
Down ~400 Million Metric Tons From 2008
Mostly from Reduced Coal & Petroleum Use





Industrial Process Energy Recovery Projects

- Project Goals are Often Tied to:
 - Energy Savings
 - Environmental Savings and Impacts
- Critical Peripheral Benefits Also Surface Beyond These Savings
 - Improved Product Quality (PACCAR Kenworth)
 - Improved Safety (Less Indoor Air Pollution)
 - Enhanced Product Throughput Due to Process Efficiency Increases
 - Enhanced Operational Efficiency (Less Water Use)
- Challenges:
 - Scaling Up to Industrial Processing Energy Flows
 - System Cost and Payback
 - Integrating into Industrial Processes Without Adversely Impacting Product Quality and Critical Metrics
 - High-Temperature Materials – Durability and Operational Maintenance
 - $\text{La}_{3-x}\text{Te}_4$, Zintl, Skutterudite TE Materials are One Solution
 - In Some Cases, Similar Source Temperature and Energy Flow Variability as in Automobile Applications
 - “Occupied” Volume and Compactness
 - JPL Working on Higher Power Density TE Solutions in Automotive and DARPA Programs



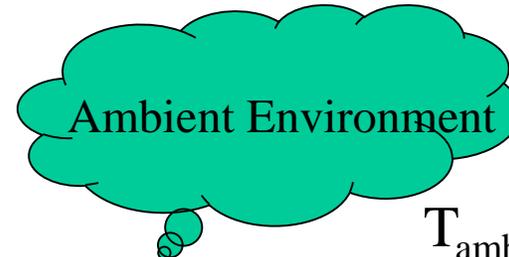
Common Energy Recovery Environments, Configurations & Systems



- Energy Recovery generally involves Power Conversion Technology operating between T_{source} and T_{ambient}



$$\eta_{\text{carnot}} = 1 - T_{\text{ambient}} / T_{\text{source}}$$



$T_{\text{ambient}} \sim 0^{\circ}\text{C} - 200^{\circ}\text{C}$

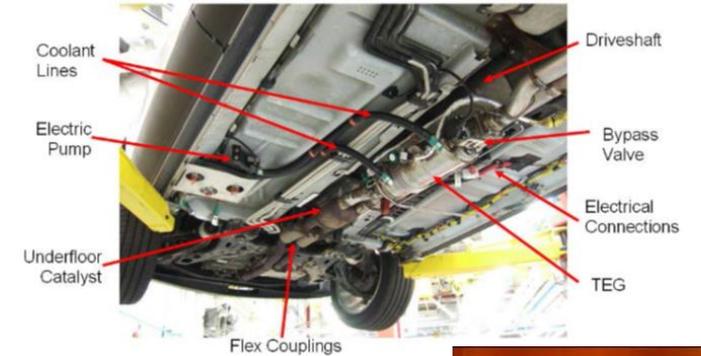
Energy Source Input
 $T_{\text{source}} \sim 200^{\circ}\text{C} - 1400^{\circ}\text{C}$



Energy Conversions Technologies

- Thermoelectric (<1 kW_e)
- KilloPower (1-10 kW_e)
- Stirling (1-50 kW_e)
- Brayton (10-50 kW_e)
- Rankine (>50 kW_e)
- Solar Thermal (>100 kW_e)
- Fission Surface Power (10-100 kW_e)

Power Output

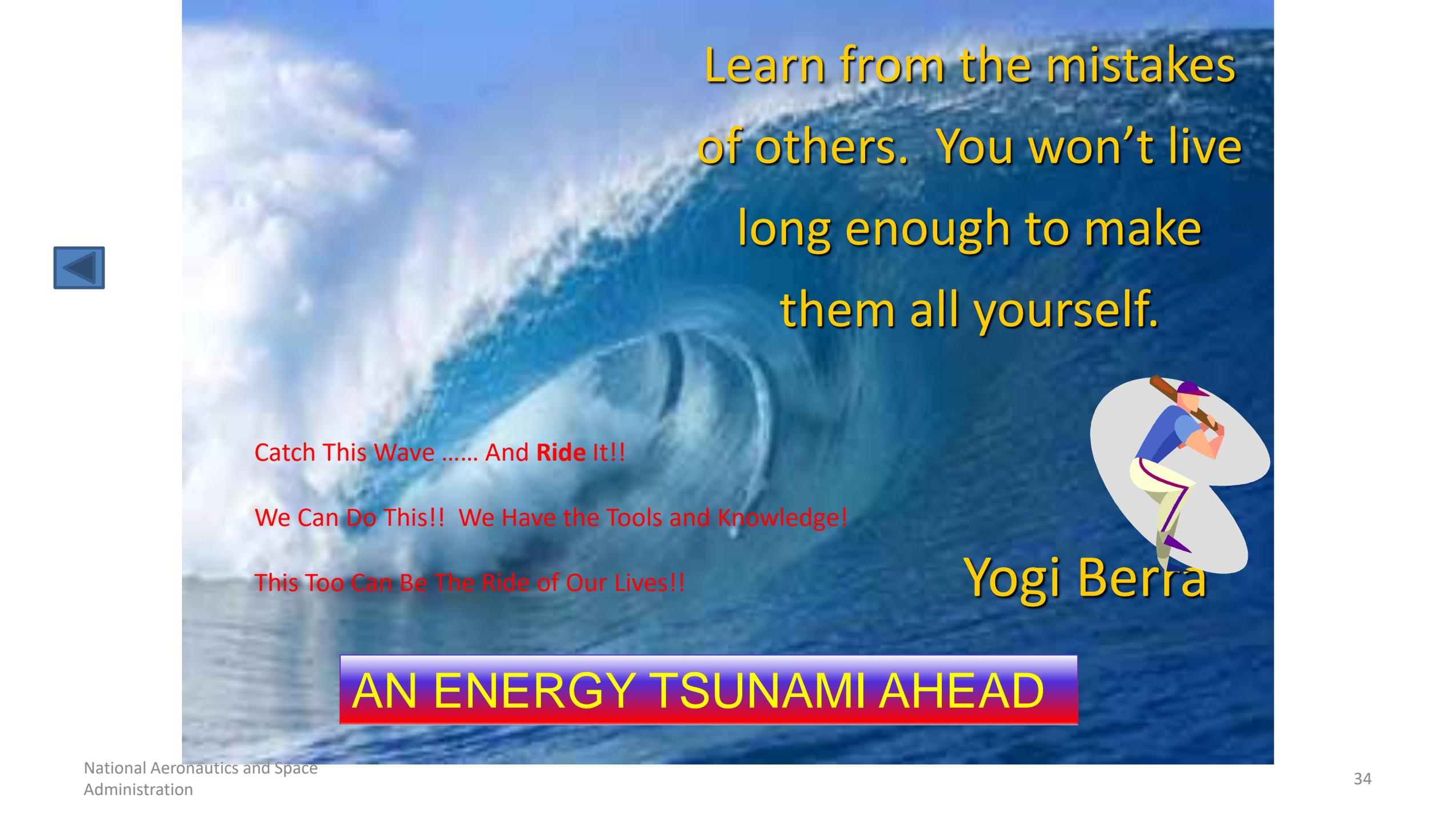




We Are Up Against the Laws of Thermodynamics

	Mathematical Representation	English Translation
1 st Law of Thermodynamics	Energy: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\int_{CV} \rho e dV \right) = \int_{A_{in}} (h + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V}^2 + gZ) d\dot{m} + \dot{Q}_{CV} + \dot{W}_{CV} - \int_{A_{out}} (h + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V}^2 + gZ) d\dot{m}$ $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [\rho(e + \frac{1}{2}v^2)] + \nabla \cdot [\rho v(e + \frac{1}{2}v^2)] = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{v}) + \rho \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{F}$ <p> <small>rate of increase of energy per unit volume convection of energy into a point by flow net heat flow work of surface forces work of body forces</small> </p>	There is NO FREE LUNCH
2 nd Law of Thermodynamics	$\dot{S}_{gen} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\int_{CV} \rho s dV \right) - \int_{A_{in}} s d\dot{m} + \int_{A_{out}} s d\dot{m} - \sum_i \left(\frac{\dot{Q}_i}{T_i} \right)_{CV}$ $\rho \frac{Ds}{Dt} = -\partial_i \left(\frac{q_i}{T} \right) - \frac{1}{T^2} q_i \partial_i T + \frac{1}{T} \tau_{ij} \partial_j v_i$	You CAN NOT Win
3 rd Law of Thermodynamics	$\Delta S \geq 0$	You ALWAYS Lose

- I still remember the day I first learned these laws in undergraduate school – Very Depressing
- Physics of Heat Transfer
- Then of course there are the Laws of Economics
- But we can still accomplish useful things for the planet



Learn from the mistakes
of others. You won't live
long enough to make
them all yourself.

Catch This Wave And **Ride** It!!

We Can Do This!! We Have the Tools and Knowledge!

This Too Can Be The Ride of Our Lives!!



Yogi Berra

AN ENERGY TSUNAMI AHEAD



Shift Gears

Biosensors - What is NASA/JPL Looking For?



The answers to these questions:

- Is there life elsewhere in the Universe?
- What is the future of life on Earth and beyond?

NASA's Habitable Worlds Program

- To identify the potentially habitable environments in the Solar System and beyond
- To explore the possibility of extant life beyond the earth
- Established the NASA Astrobiology Institute (NAI) to develop the field of astrobiology and provide scientific framework for future planetary exploration missions



“When it comes to extraterrestrial life, no longer is the main question whether bodies like Mars or the outer Solar System’s icy moons could be habitable. Rather, researchers have moved on to determining how they can find evidence of life, past or present, through the [presence of bio-signatures and other techniques](#).”
Astrobiology Science Conference (AbSciCon) 2017



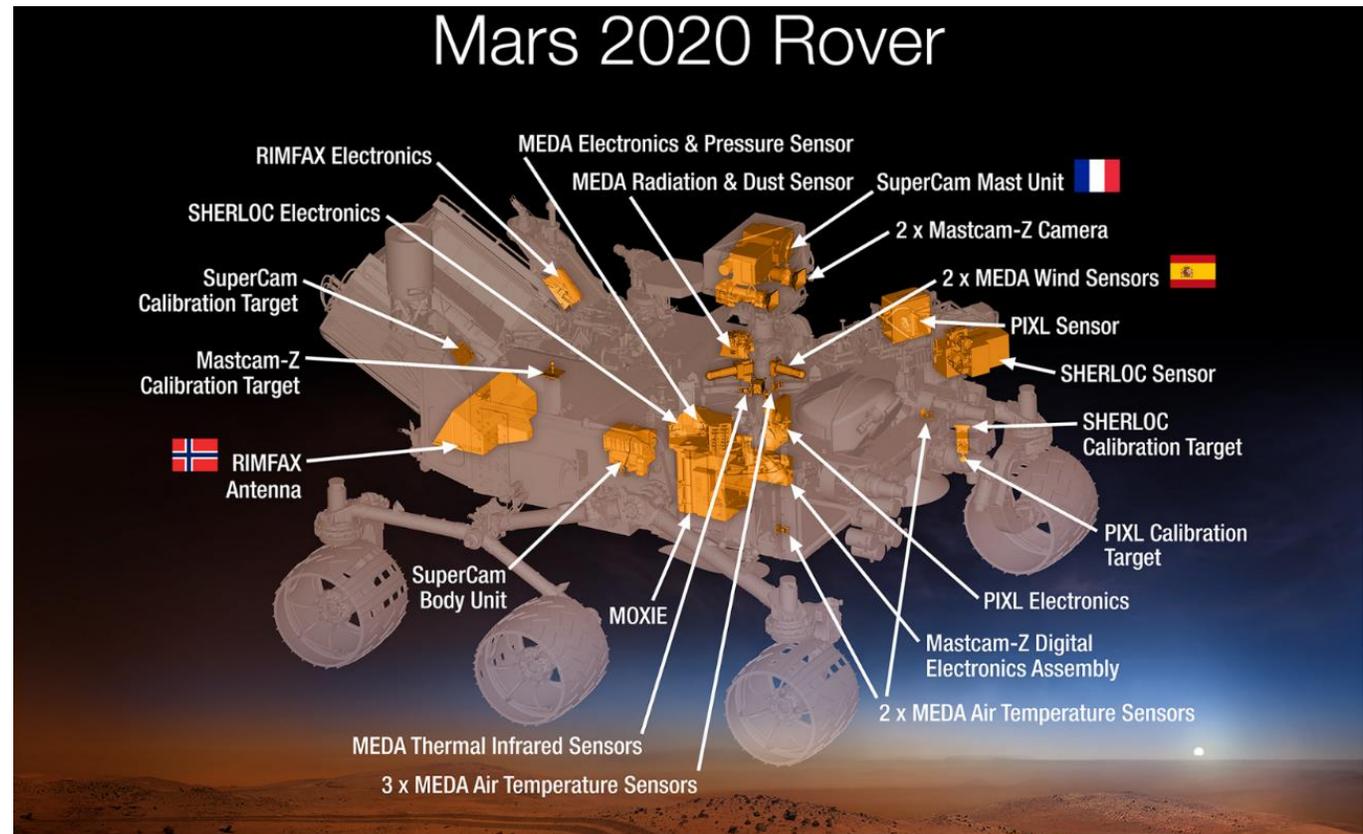
Habitable Worlds Program
Solar System Exploration Missions
(Follow the Water)

MARS 2020 Scientific Instruments



Mission Objectives

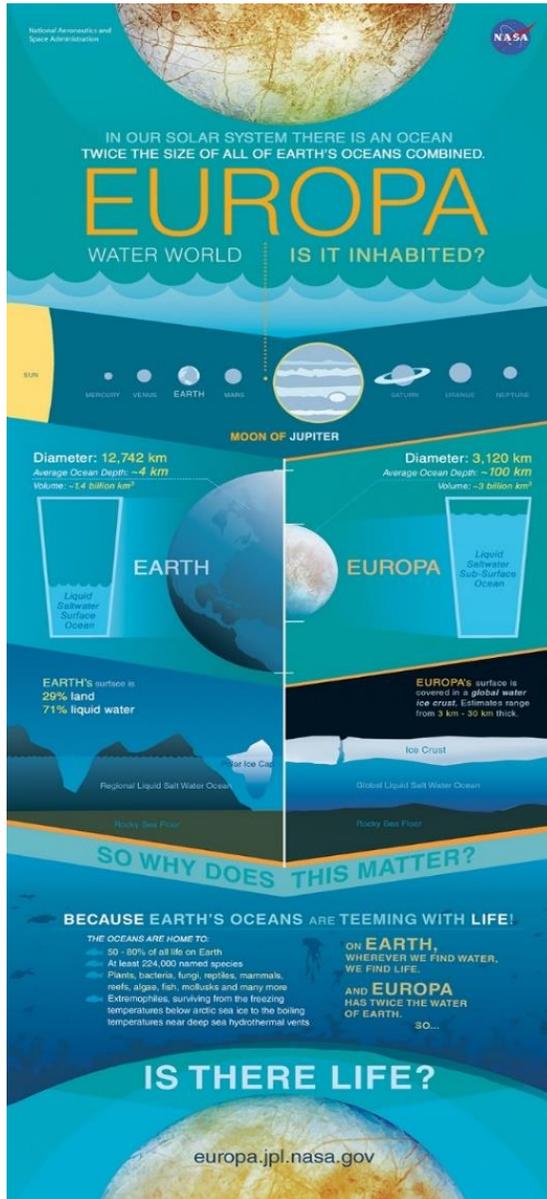
- Seek signs of habitable conditions and microbial life on Mars in the ancient past
- To gather knowledge and demonstrate technologies that address the challenges of future human expeditions to Mars
- Test a method for producing oxygen from the Martian atmosphere



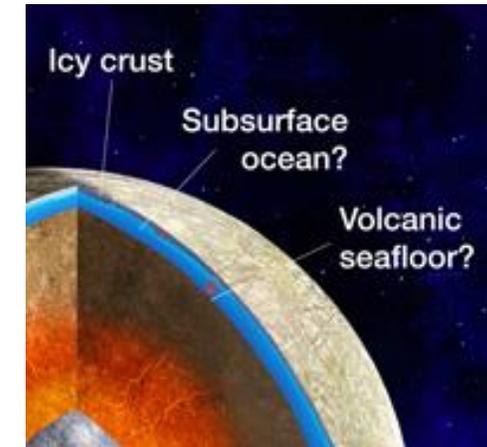
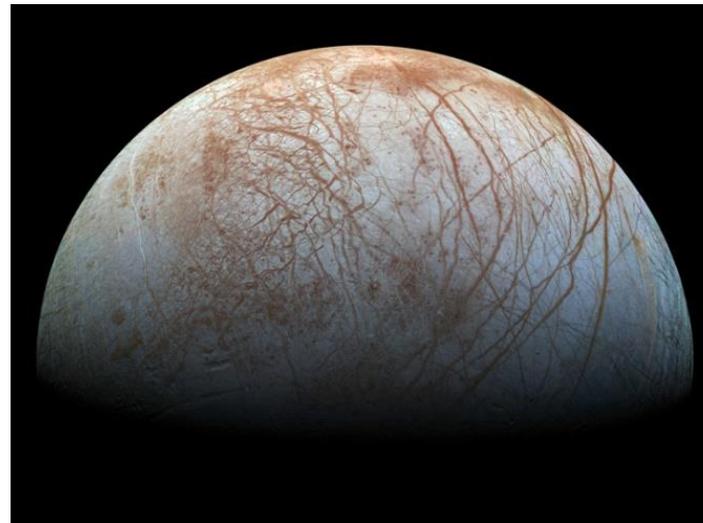
More advanced state-of-the-art scientific instruments

- Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals (SHERLOC) sensors
- An ultraviolet Raman and fluorescence spectrometer which will be mounted on the rover's robotic arm and will search for organics and minerals that may be signs of past microbial life

Opportunities of Scientific Instruments for a Potential Jupiter's Europa Ocean Worlds Lander



- Europa is a moon that orbits the planet Jupiter
- Europa's surface is mostly solid **water** ice
- *Europa might be the place to look for environments where life could exist in the present day*
- Life as we know depends upon three key “ingredients”
 - Liquid **water**
 - Essential chemical elements/reactions
 - A source of energy
- **Lots of opportunities for biosensor/bioelectronics communities for a potential lander/rover mission**



Cutaway diagram of Europa's interior

Power & Energy Harvesting Systems for Outer Planets Mission Concepts

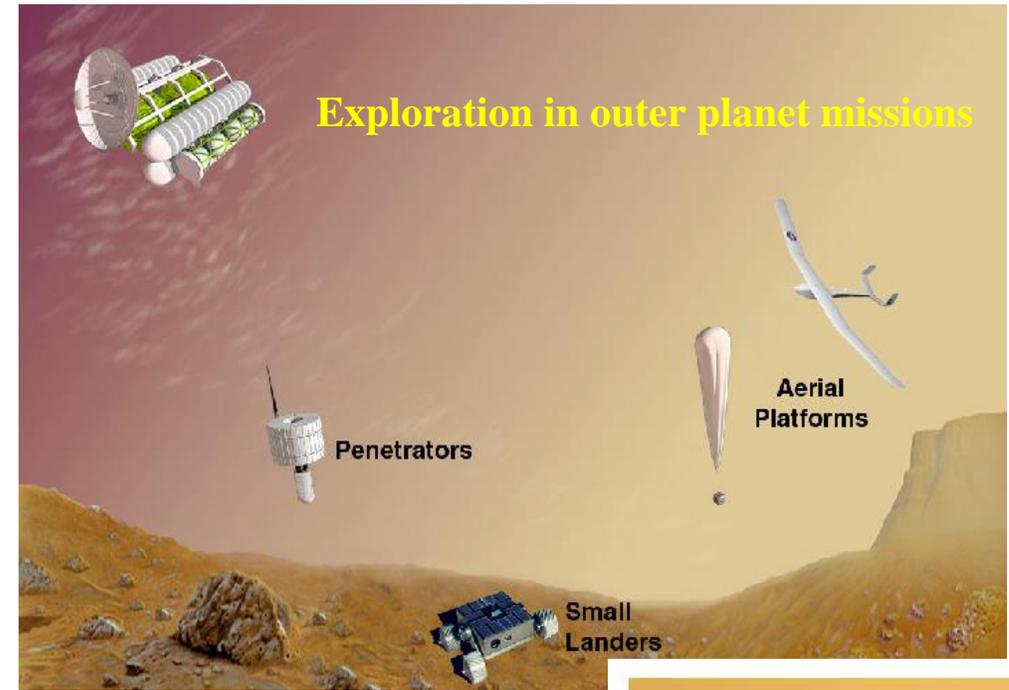


⇒ Outer Planets exploration activities

- Through ice, water, cryogenic liquids, hot gases, high g loads, moderate to high radiation
- Such as for Europa landers, Titan explorers, Comet sample return vehicles...

⇒ Need for miniaturized robust power sources

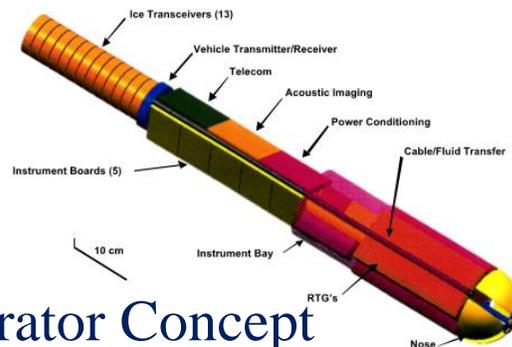
- To enable/prolong planetary exploration, to permit novel/more science measurements
- To enable development of novel miniaturized autonomous probes such as drop-off penetrators, weather microstations, communication relay devices, etc...



Mars Helicopter Concept

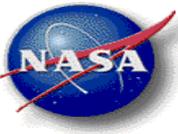


Titan Aerial Mission Concept



Europa Ice Penetrator Concept

4 Critical Requirements for Technology Development to Deployment



- Vision → Policy
- Strategy → Actions Plans, Statements of Work
- Technology Available → Consensus and Agreement by Many
- Money \$\$\$\$ → Continuity of Funding



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

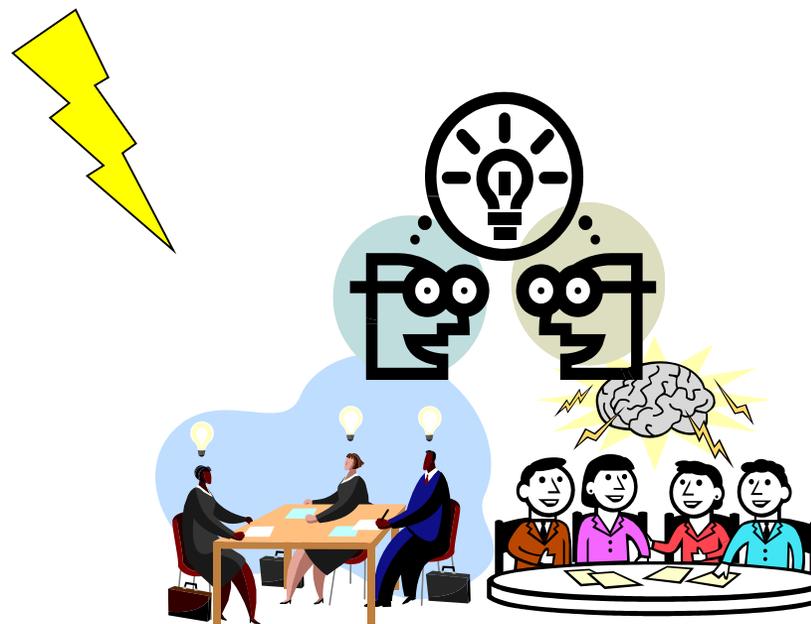
This work was carried out at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Thank you for your interest and attention



Some People See the World as It Is and Ask Why..... I Dream What Has
Never Been and Ask Why Not? Robert F. Kennedy, 1968

Questions & Discussion



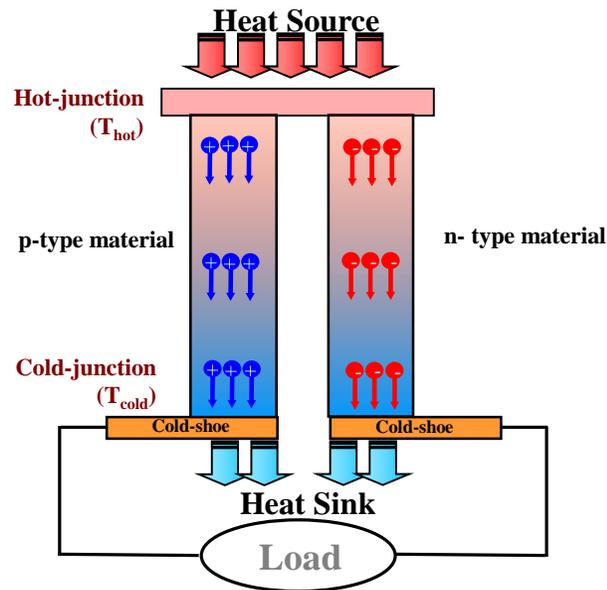


BACKUP SLIDES

* Methane is the world's most abundant hydrocarbon. It's the major component of natural gas and shale gas and, when burned, is an effective fuel. But it's also a major contributor to climate change, with 24 times greater potency as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

Thermoelectric Power Generation

Thermoelectric Couple

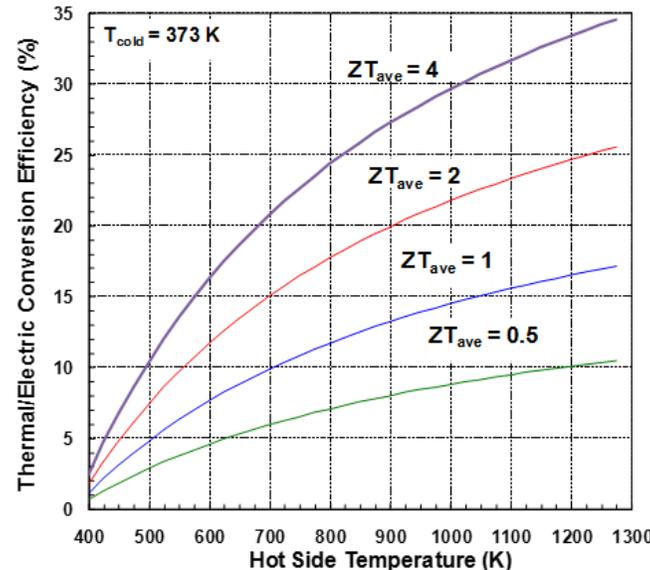


Thermoelectric effects are defined by a coupling between the electrical and thermal currents induced by an electric field and a temperature gradient

Dimensionless Thermoelectric Figure of Merit, ZT

$$ZT = \frac{\sigma S^2 T}{\lambda} = \frac{S^2 T}{\rho \lambda}$$

Seebeck coefficient S
 Electrical conductivity σ
 Electrical resistivity ρ
 Thermal conductivity λ
 Absolute temperature T



Common TE Materials:

- Bi₂Te₃ 300 K – 525 K
- PbTe-based 400 K – 775 K
- SiGe-based 525 K – 1273 K
- Skutterudites 475 K – 875 K
- La_{3-x}Te₄/Zintl 625 K – 1273 K

Conversion Efficiency

Power generation
 (across 1275 to 300 K)
 State-Of-Practice materials:
 $ZT_{average} \sim 0.5$

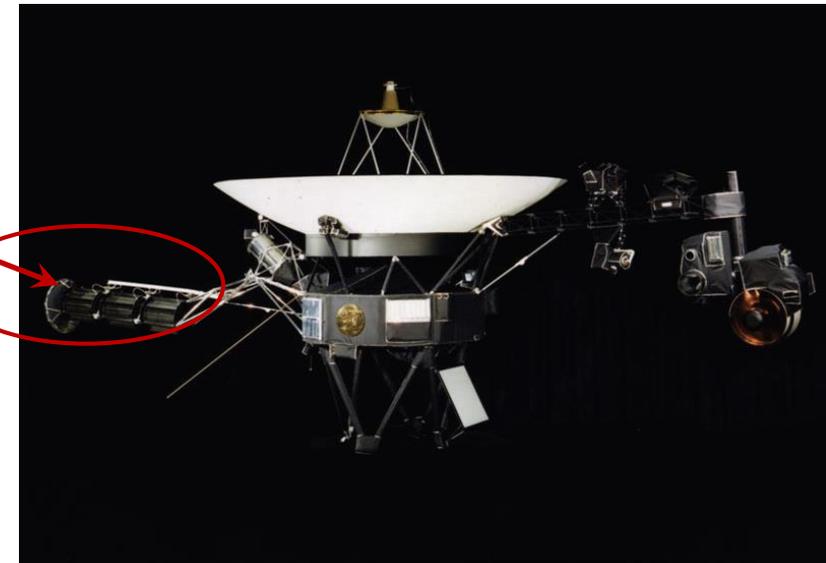
State-Of-the-Art materials:
 $ZT_{average} \sim 1.1$

Best SOA materials:
 $ZT_{peak} \sim 1.5 \text{ to } 2.0$

Conversion efficiency is a direct function of ZT and ΔT

Voyager – Interstellar Mission (1977)

- Launched 37 Years Ago
- Traveled Farther than Anyone, or Anything, in History – 11 billion miles from Earth Now
 - First Spacecraft to Travel Beyond Our “Solar Wind”
- First Flyby Studies of Jupiter, Saturn, Saturn’s rings, and the Larger Moons of the Two Planets, Neptune, Uranus
 - Discovered 3 of Jupiter’s Moons – Adrastea, Metis, and Thebe
 - Detailed Investigation of Saturn’s Rings
- Now in Interstellar Space Outside our Solar System
- RTG Power System (Based on Si-Ge Thermoelectric Materials)
 - Still Operating and Powering Spacecraft

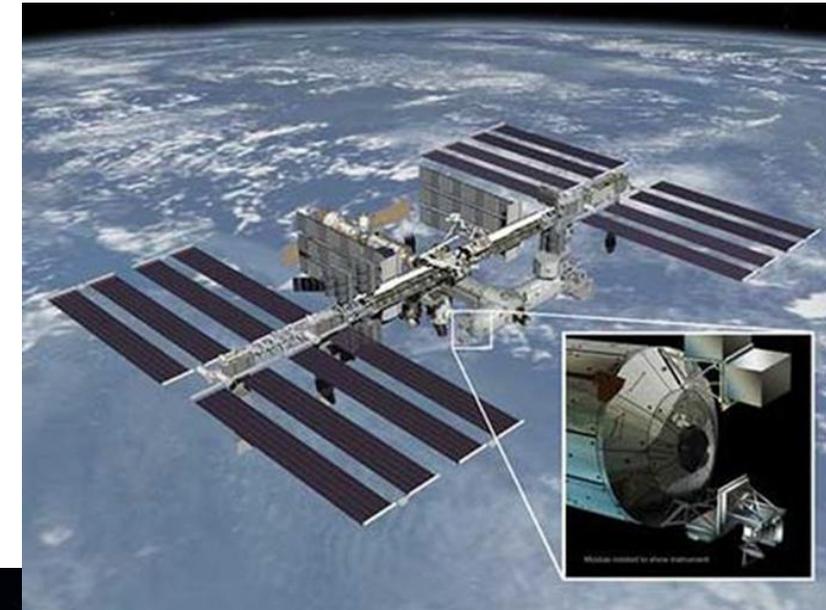




SPACECRAFT SOLAR SYSTEMS

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION & DAWN & JUNO

- Solar Photovoltaic Power System Used to Power Current International Space Station
 - Silicon
 - Eight 375 m² Solar Arrays, 84 – 120 kW
- Dawn Spacecraft
 - Asteroid Chasing - Vesta and Ceres Asteroids
 - Hyper-efficient Ion-Propulsion (Xenon fueled)
 - 10 kW of Solar Power @ 1 A.U.; 1.3 kW @ 3 A.U.
 - InGaP/InGaAs/Ge Triple Junction PV Cells (35.4 m²)
 - Low Intensity, Low Temperature PV Effects Considered (Emerging)
- Juno Spacecraft
 - Launched to Jupiter in July 2011
 - Arrives July 2016
 - Study Jupiter Atmosphere, Magnetic, & Gravity Fields



U.S. National Waste Energy Recovery

➤ Transportation Sector

- 12.5 Quads
- Light-Duty Passenger Vehicles + Light-Duty Vans/Trucks (SUVs)¹
- Medium & Heavy-Duty Vehicles¹



➤ Industrial Process Sector is Another Opportunity

- 5-10 Quads of Waste Energy Flows in Industrial Processes
 - Aluminum, Glass
 - Paper
 - Petroleum
 - Chemical
- 1.8 Quads Recoverable, Potentially 1.56 GW²
- Wide Range of Temperatures & Heat Sources



➤ Europe and Asia Have Similar Challenges

Waste Energy All Around Us

¹ *Transportation Energy Data Book*, 2010, Edition 29, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Vehicles Technology Program. ORNL-6985, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

<http://cta.ornl.gov/data/index.shtml>.

² U.S. Energy Information Agency, 2007 Annual Energy Outlook



The Magnitude of Our Energy Problem



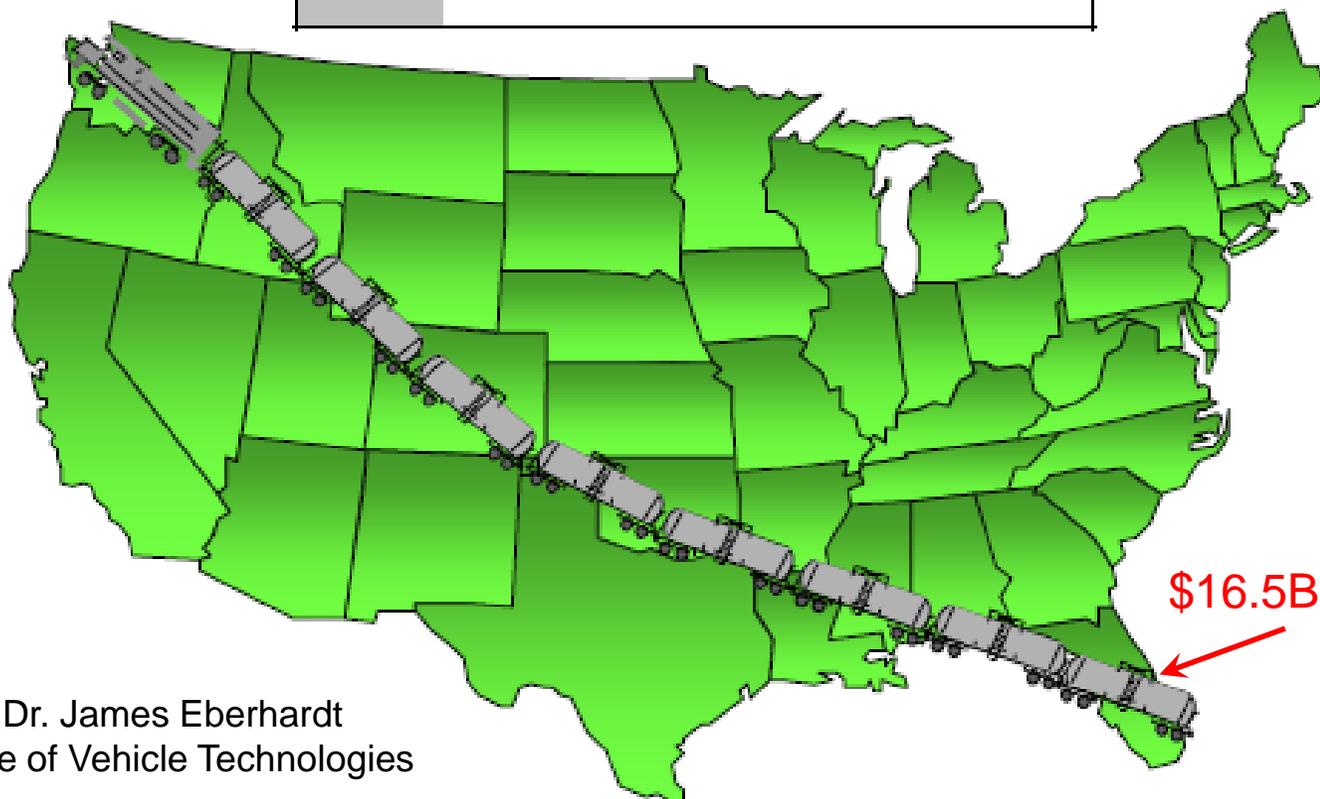
Office of Heavy Vehicle Technologies



	1973	1997
U.S.	74 Quads	91 Quads
World	225 Quads	365 Quads

→ 2014
~98.3 Quads¹

¹U.S. Energy Information Agency



\$16.5B @ \$50/Barrel



Reference - Dr. James Eberhardt
DOE – Office of Vehicle Technologies

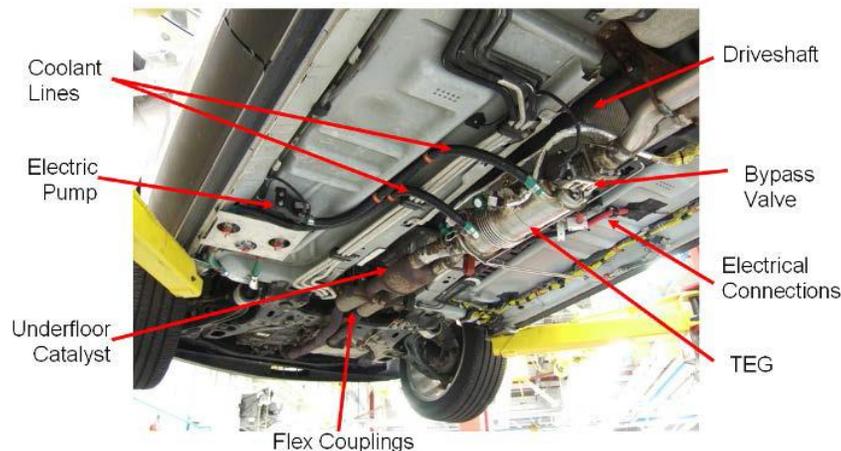
1 Quad of energy is equivalent to 340,000 tank cars of crude oil stretched from Miami to Seattle (3,300 miles).

Thermoelectrics in a Ford Lincoln MKT & BMW Series 6 (May 2012)

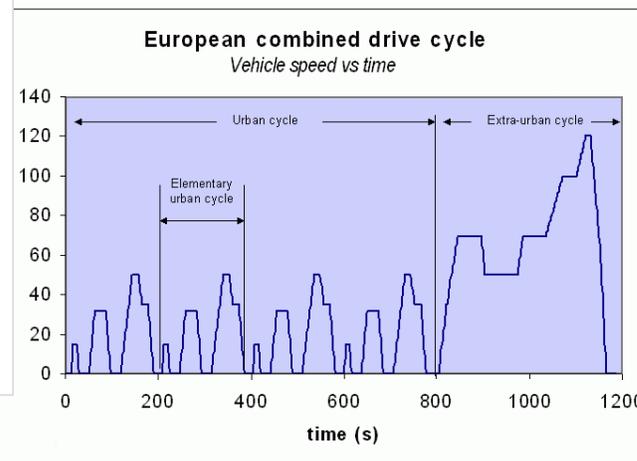
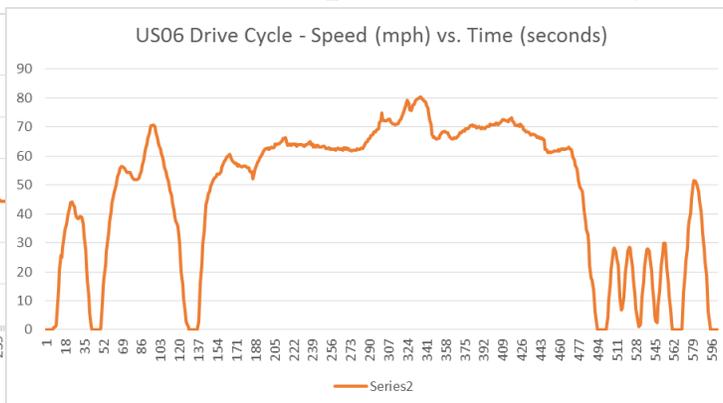
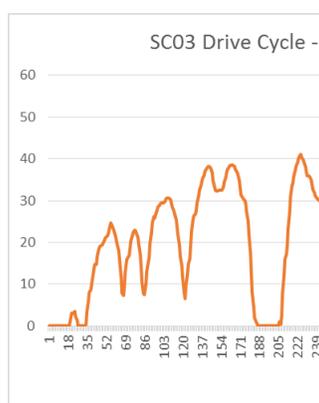


- Demonstrated 450 W Power Output on a BMW Drive Cycle at 130 kph
- Demonstrated 300 W Power Output on a Ford Lincoln MKT at 65 mph

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/pdfs/merit_review_2012/adv_combustion/ace080_lagrandeur_2012_o.pdf



- BMW ultimately interested in average power over NEDC
- Ford and U.S. Auto Companies ultimately interested in US06 & SC03



<https://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/>

Advancements in Our Scientific Instruments



Table top system
(~100 lbs)



Commercially available system (< 5 lbs)

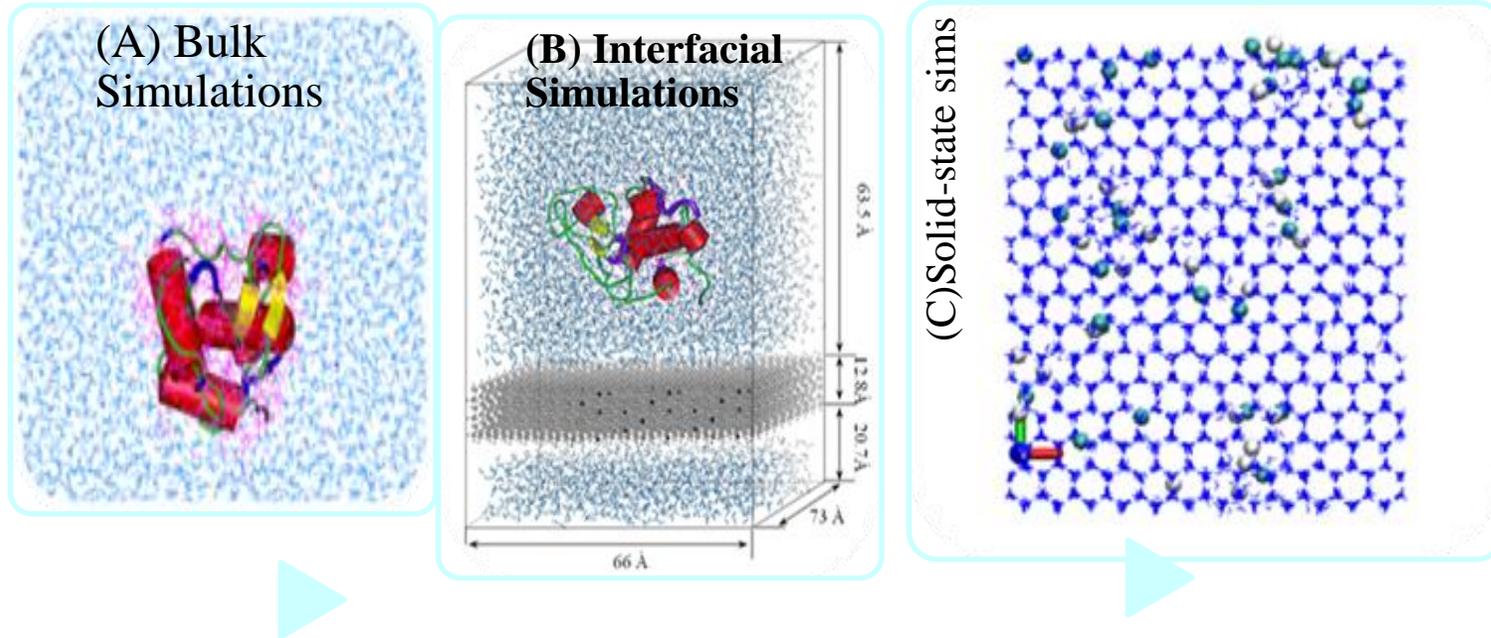
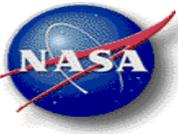
Our Key Objectives

- Multi-platform *in situ* bio/chemical sensors on **ultra-trace (ppb)** analyte concentrations under **extreme environmental conditions**
- **Low power**
- Highly portable and scalable (**reduce the payload**)
- **Non-destructive technique**
- Fast response and short detectable reaction-time
- Targeted analytes
 - Gas sensor – hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, CO₂, etc.
 - Raman laser bio/chemical sensor – carbohydrates, amino acids, nucleic acids, phosphorus, iron, magnesium, sodium, etc.



Hand unit (< 2lbs)

Molecular Modeling and Atomistic Simulations Supporting Electrochemical Biosensors



- JPL and academia collaborative efforts are underway to develop critical chemical/physical mechanisms in support of developing electrochemical sensor technologies
 - Bulk transport properties
 - Interfacial electrode/electrolyte properties
 - Charge-transfer properties