Jet Propulsion Laboratory
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NASA's Technology Investments Towards an Exo-Earth Imaging and Characterization Mission

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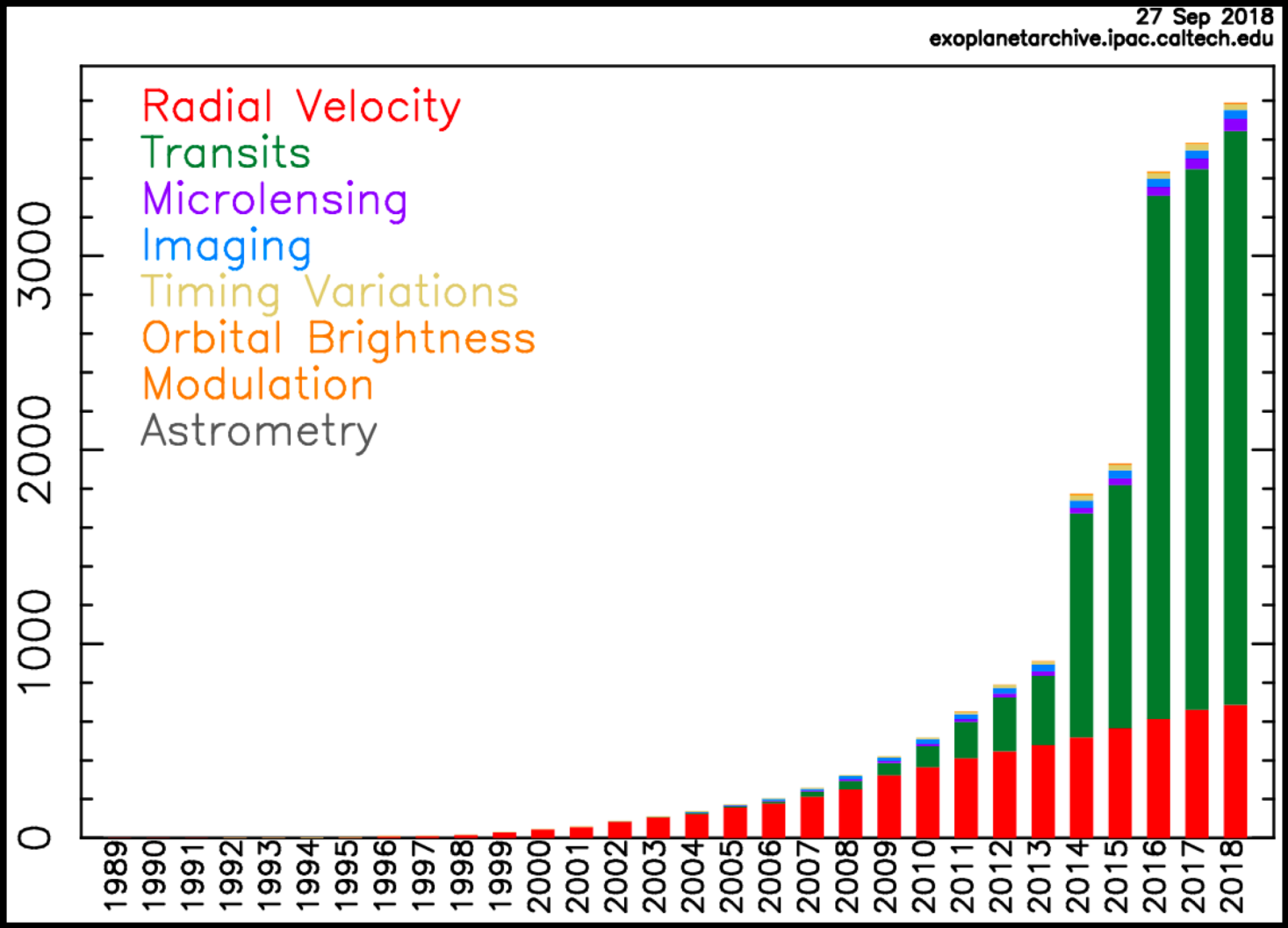
Mirror Technology Days
El Segundo, CA
November 5, 2018

3791 Confirmed Exoplanets

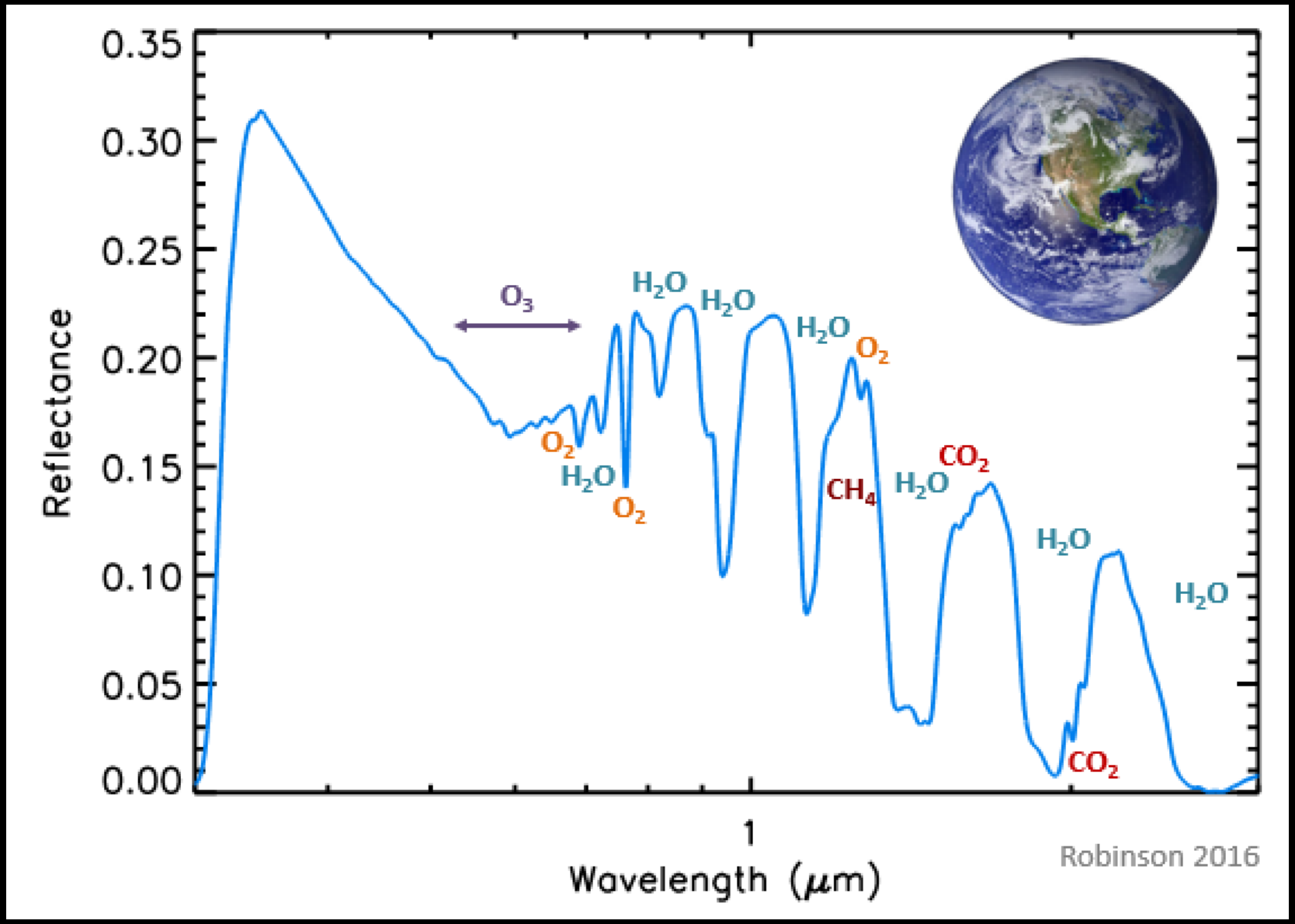


Number of Planets

Discovery Year

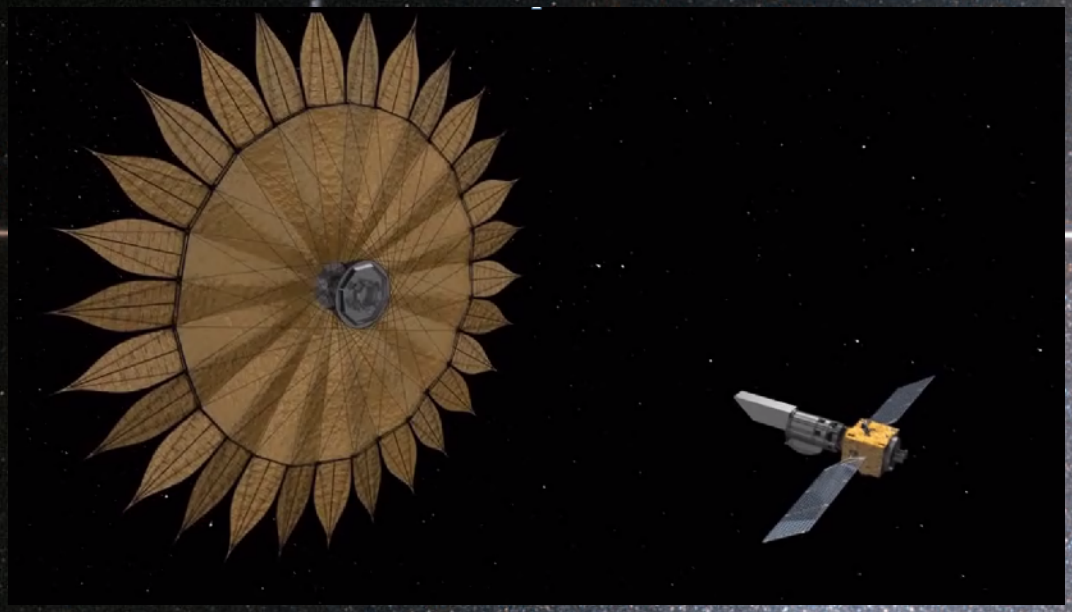
The Evidence for Life on Exoplanets

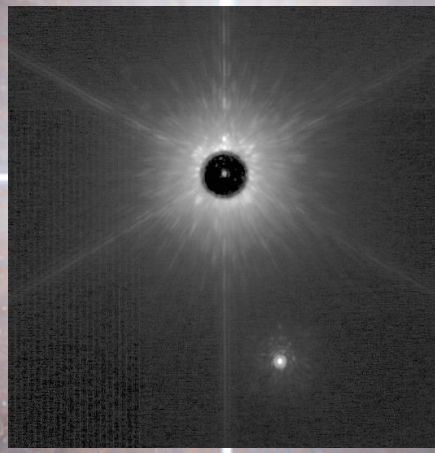
--reflected light spectroscopy



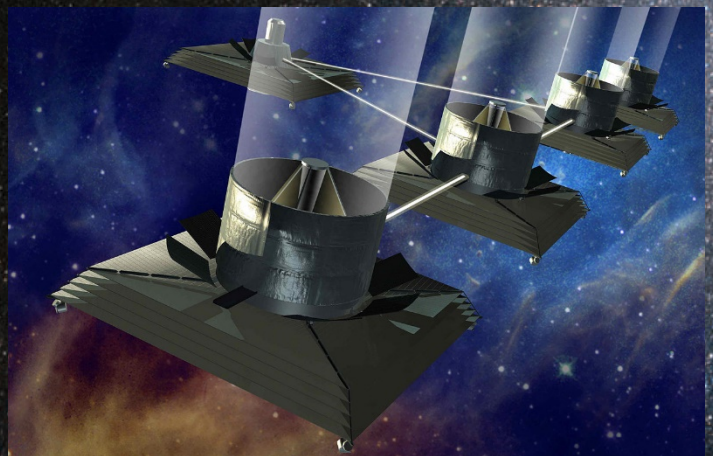
Starlight Suppression is the Key Technology in the Search for Earth-Size Exoplanets and Life

External Occulter (Starshade)

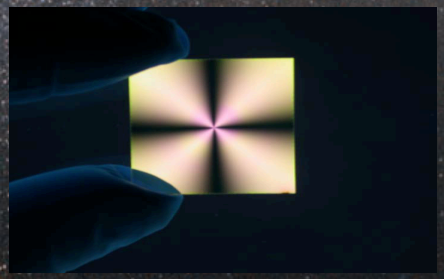


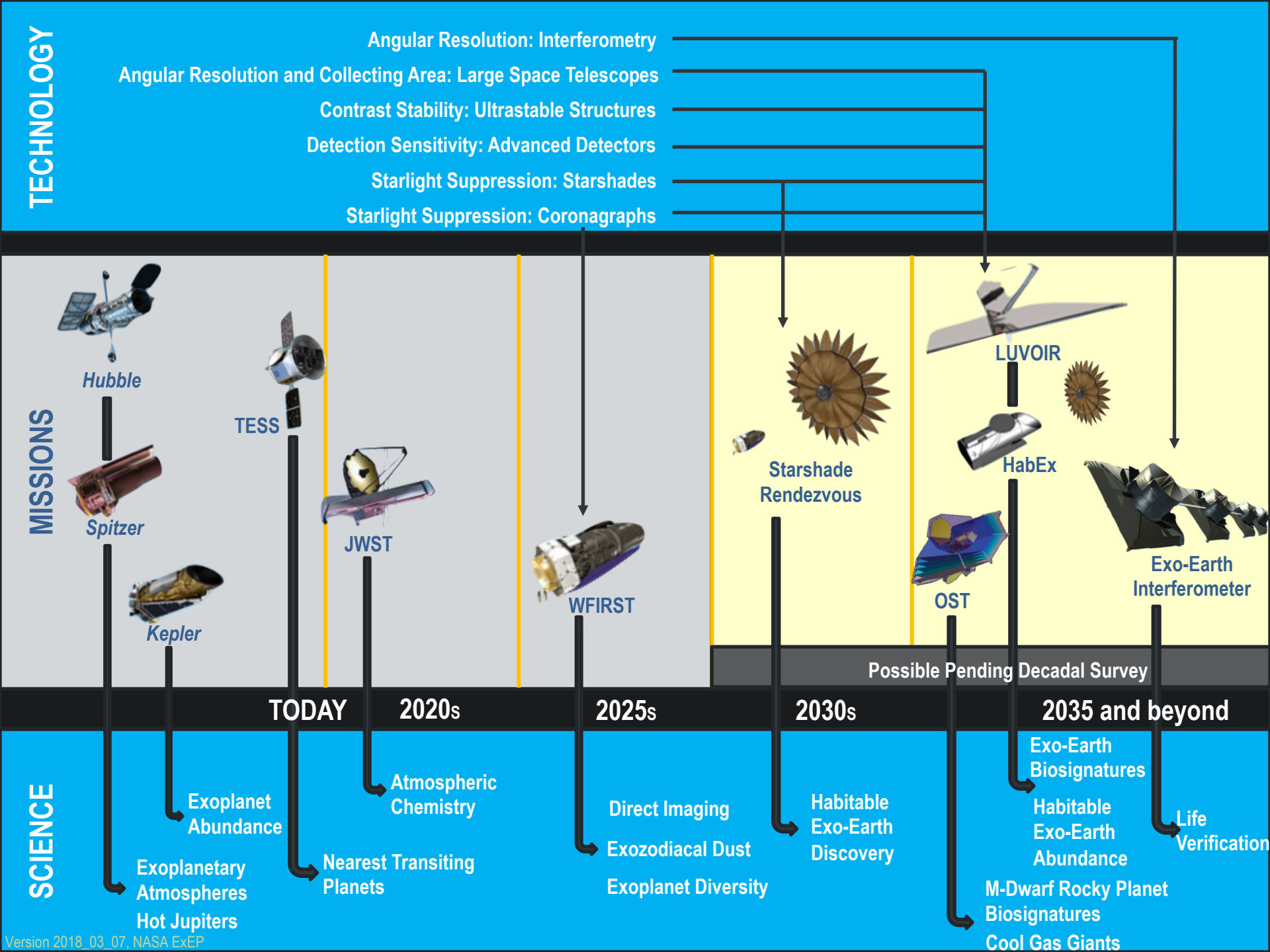


Nulling Interferometry



Internal Occulter (Coronagraph)





Version 2018_03_07, NASA ExEP

2010 Decadal Survey Recommendation

Medium-scale

TABLE ES.4 Space: Recommended Activities—Medium-Scale (Priority Order)

Recommendation	Science	Appraisal of Costs[a]
1. New Worlds Technology Development Program	Preparation for a planet-imaging mission beyond 2020, including precursor science activities	$100M to $200M
2. Inflation Probe Technology Development Program	Cosmic microwave background (CMB)/ inflation technology development and preparation for a possible mission beyond 2020	$60M to $200M

"…high-priority science areas for which mid-term investments are needed beginning early in the decade, including development of a variety of technologies for exoplanet imaging, such as coronagraphs, interferometers, and starshades, leading to possible late-decade down-selecting."

Exoplanet Science Strategy

Released by National Academies in September 2018

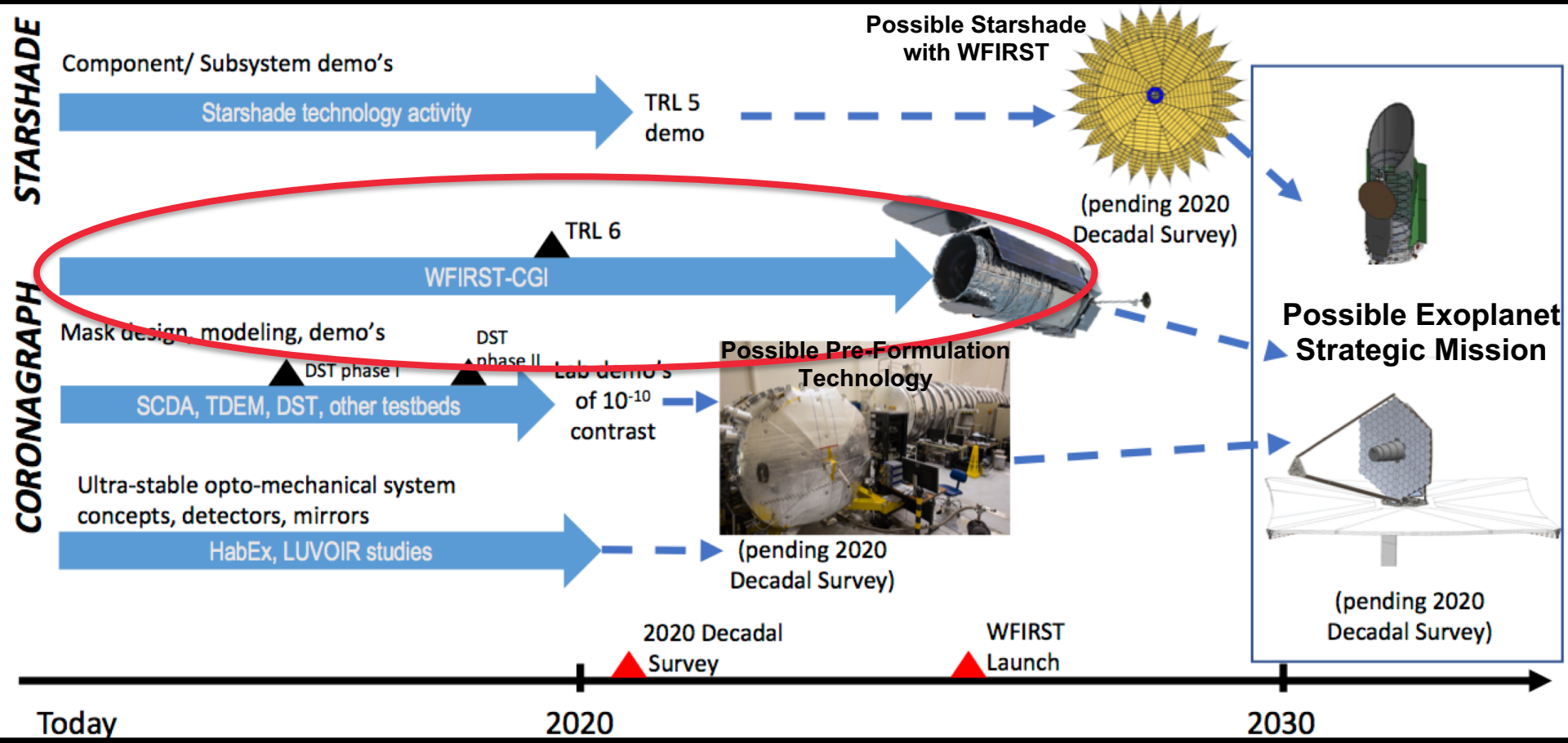
David Charbonneau (Harvard)

Scott Gaudi (Ohio State University)

Featured 7 recommendations, including:

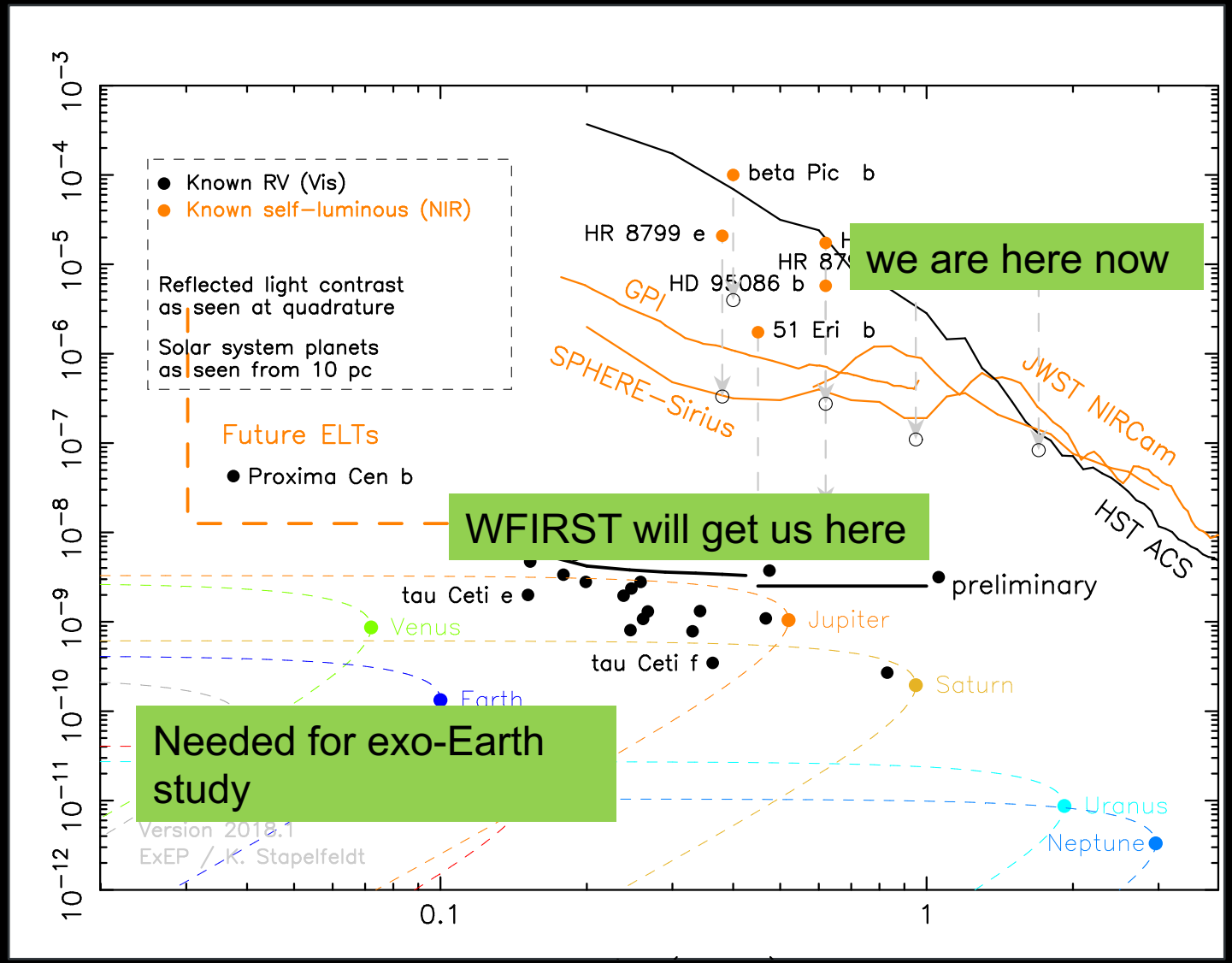
Recommendation: NASA should lead a large strategic direct imaging mission capable of measuring the reflected-light spectra of temperate terrestrial planets orbiting Sun-like stars.

Possible Technology Path to Imaging Exo-Earth



WFIRST Coronagraph

A key stepping stone

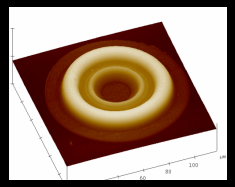


WFIRST Coronagraph Tech Development

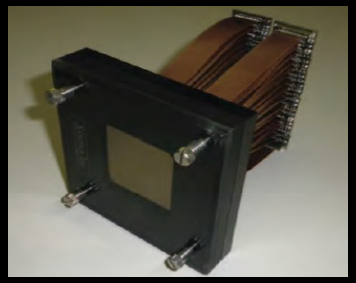
Achieved technology milestones to TRL 5

(see J. Trauger talk 8:00 Wednesday)

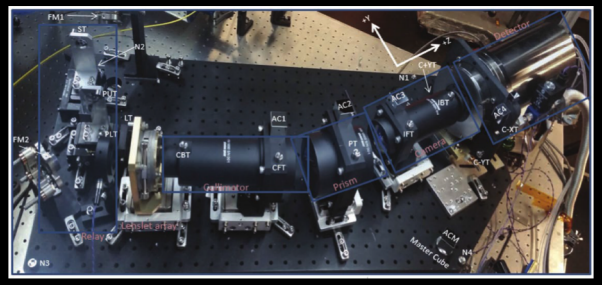
High-contrast coronagraph masks with a highly obscured pupil



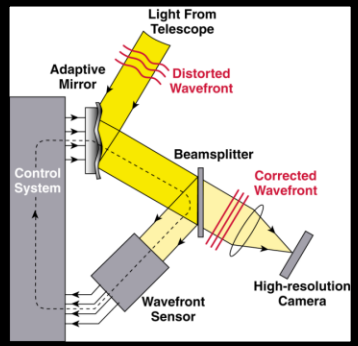
Deformable mirrors



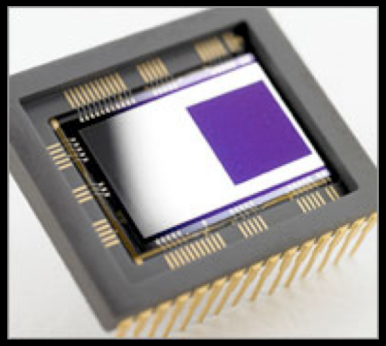
Integral field spectrograph + coronagraph



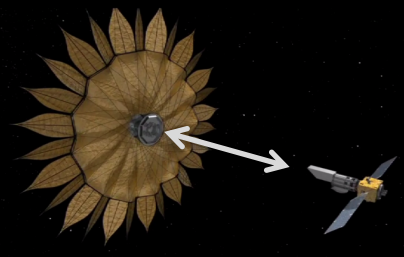
Low order wavefront sense / control



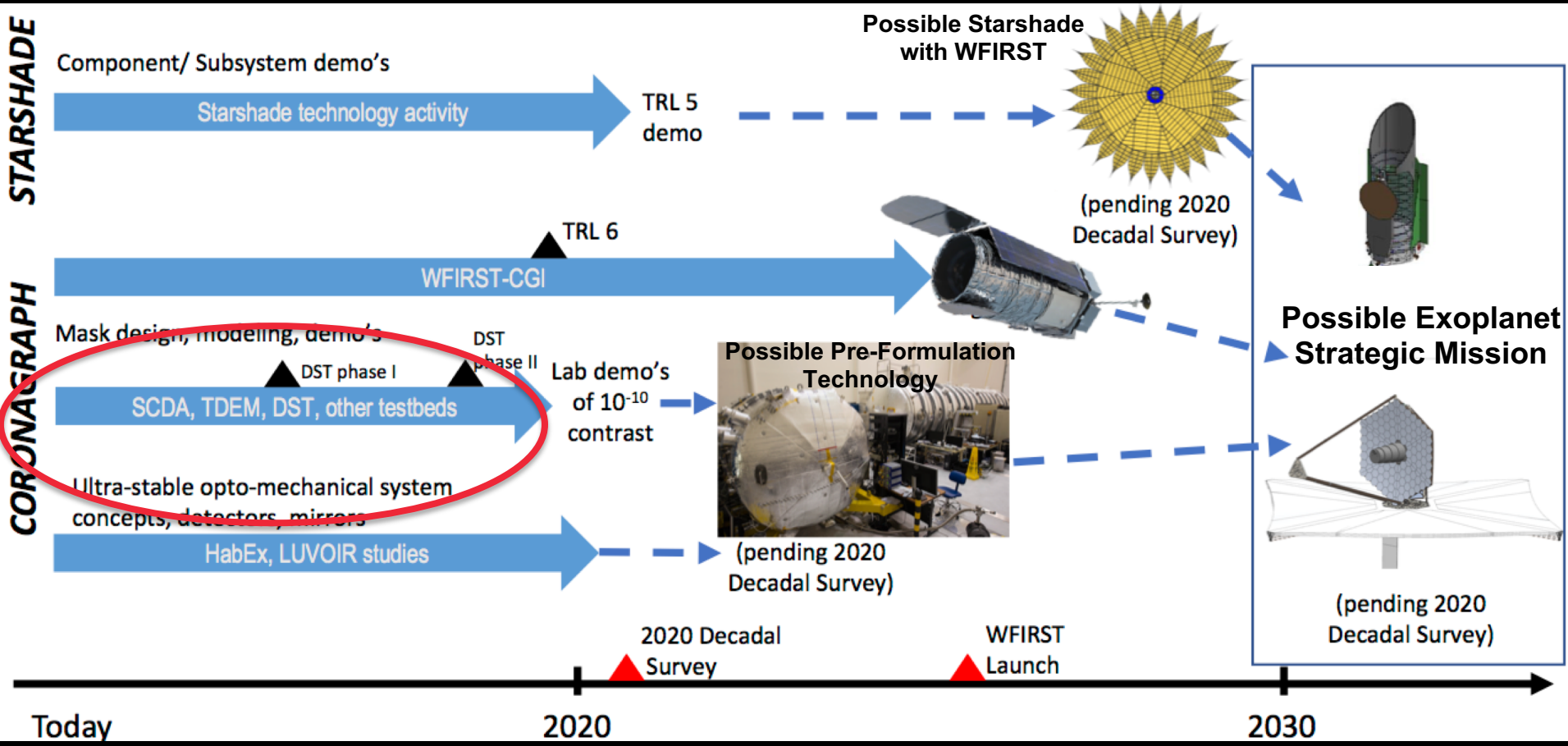
Ultra-low noise EMCCD for space



Compatibility with a starshade for possible rendezvous mission pending 2020 Decadal Survey



Possible Technology Path to Imaging Exo-Earth

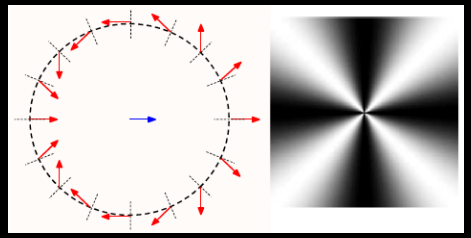


Segmented Coronagraph Design & Analysis (SCDA) Study

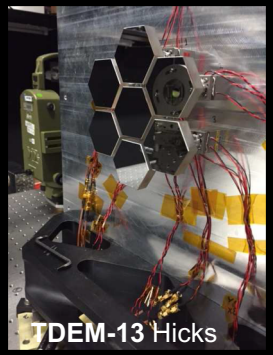
- ExEP-led study to evaluate coronagraph designs for a segmented/obscured telescope
  - Stuart Shaklan, Brendan Crill (JPL) are Study Leads, five teams
  - Ensure that there is at least one coronagraph architecture that can meet the contrast requirements of future large segmented space telescopes to directly image and characterize exo-Earths.
- Promising designs delivered of APLC (STScI/GSFC), Vortex (Caltech/JPL), HLC (JPL)
- Lessons Learned (see SPIE papers for details)
  - Big dropoff in throughput when secondary mirror obscuration exceeds 30%
  - Maximize inscribed diameter of primary
  - Segmentation gaps are not a problem (if small)
- Next Steps
  - Test New apodization masks in testbeds
  - Test robustness of designs to wavefront errors and tolerancing: Do these coronagraphs put constraints on the telescopes that are unrealistic?

NASA TDEM Awards

- Annually competed awards solicited to meet NASA's priorities
- Active awards are advancing exoplanet direct-imaging technology and yields
- Coronagraphy
  - Vector Vortex (PI Serabyn/NASA-JPL)
  - Visible Nulling Coronagraph (PI Hicks/NASA-GSFC)
  - Deformable mirrors (PI Bierden/BMC, PI Helmbrecht/Iris AO)
  - Polarization (PI Breckenridge/UA)
  - Lyot Coronagraph (PI Trauger/NASA-JPL)
  - Phase-Induced Amplitude Apodization-Complex Mask Coronagraph (PI Belikov/NASA-Ames)
  - Apodized Pupil Lyot Coronagraph (PI Soummer/STScI)
- Starshade
  - Re-directed to starshade technology activity

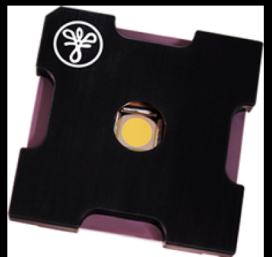


TDEM-14 Serabyn

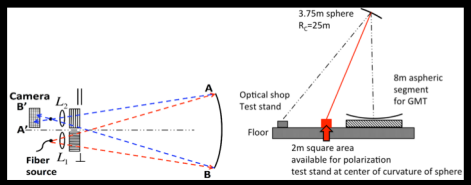


TDEM-13 Hicks

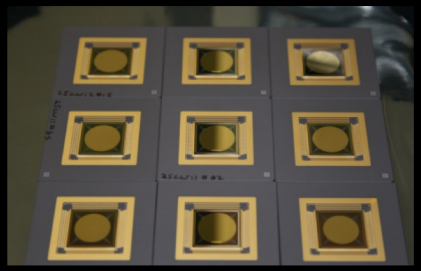
TDEM-17 Soummer



TDEM-10 Helmbrecht



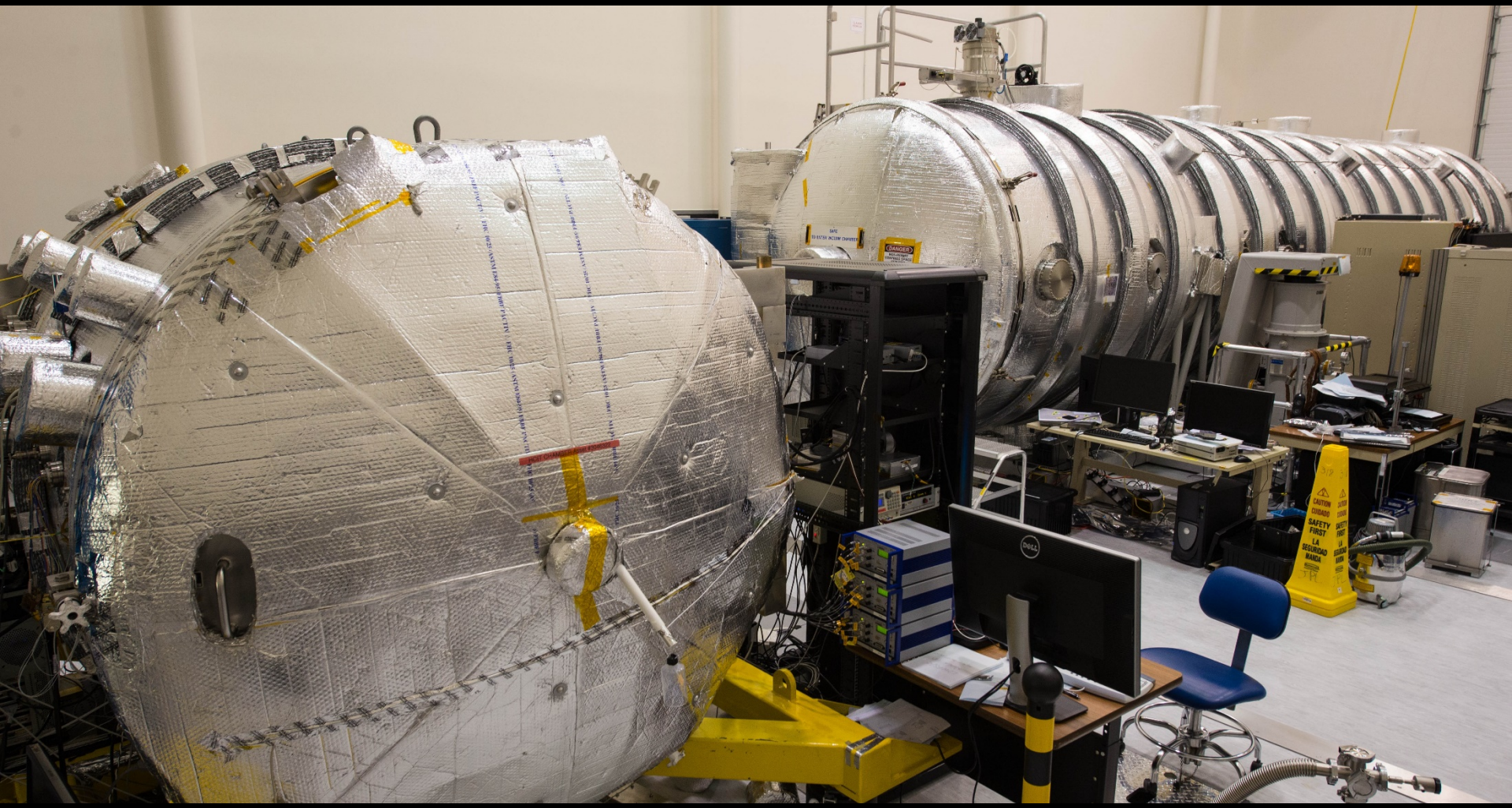
TDEM-15 Breckinridge



TDEM-10 Bierden

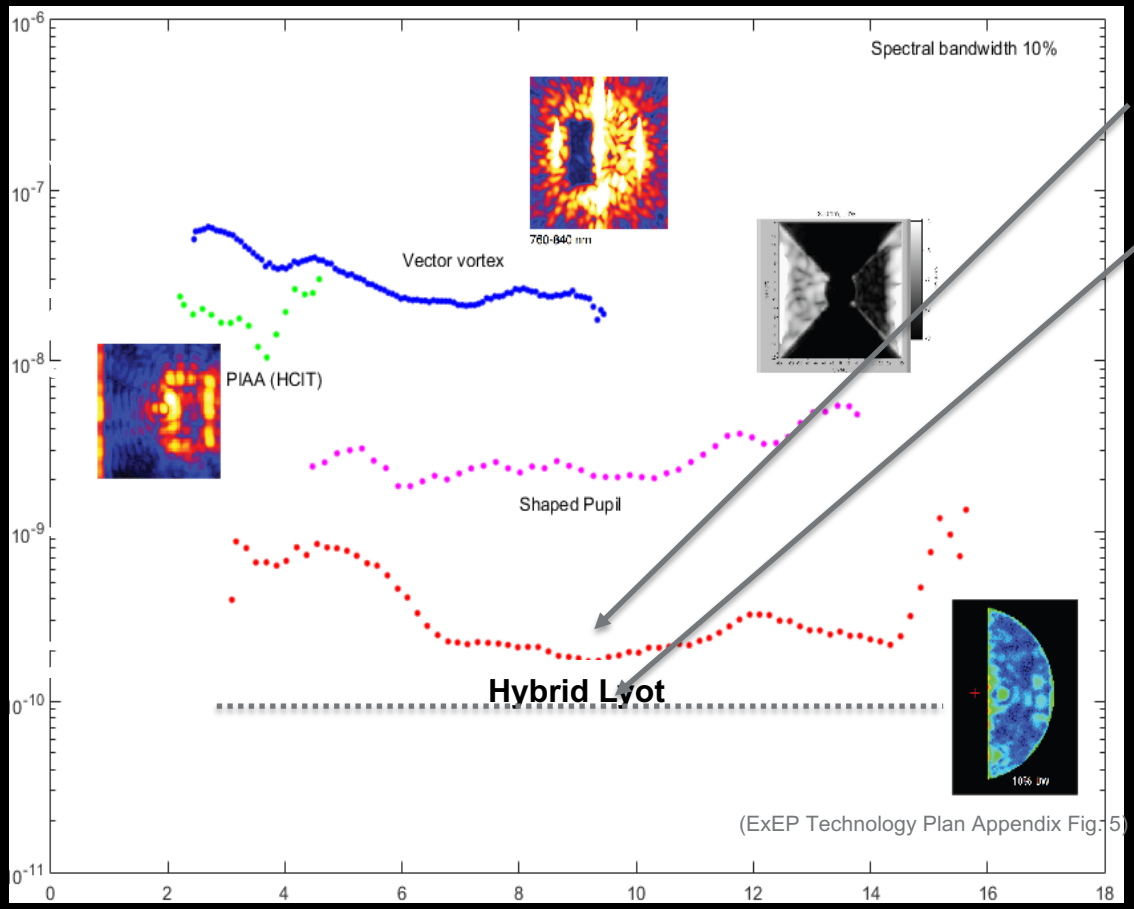
High Contrast Imaging Testbed Facility (JPL)

Advancing space coronagraph technology



High-Contrast Imaging Testbed (HCIT)

Decadal Survey Testbed



Current best contrast demonstration with 10% band (Trauger -JPL)

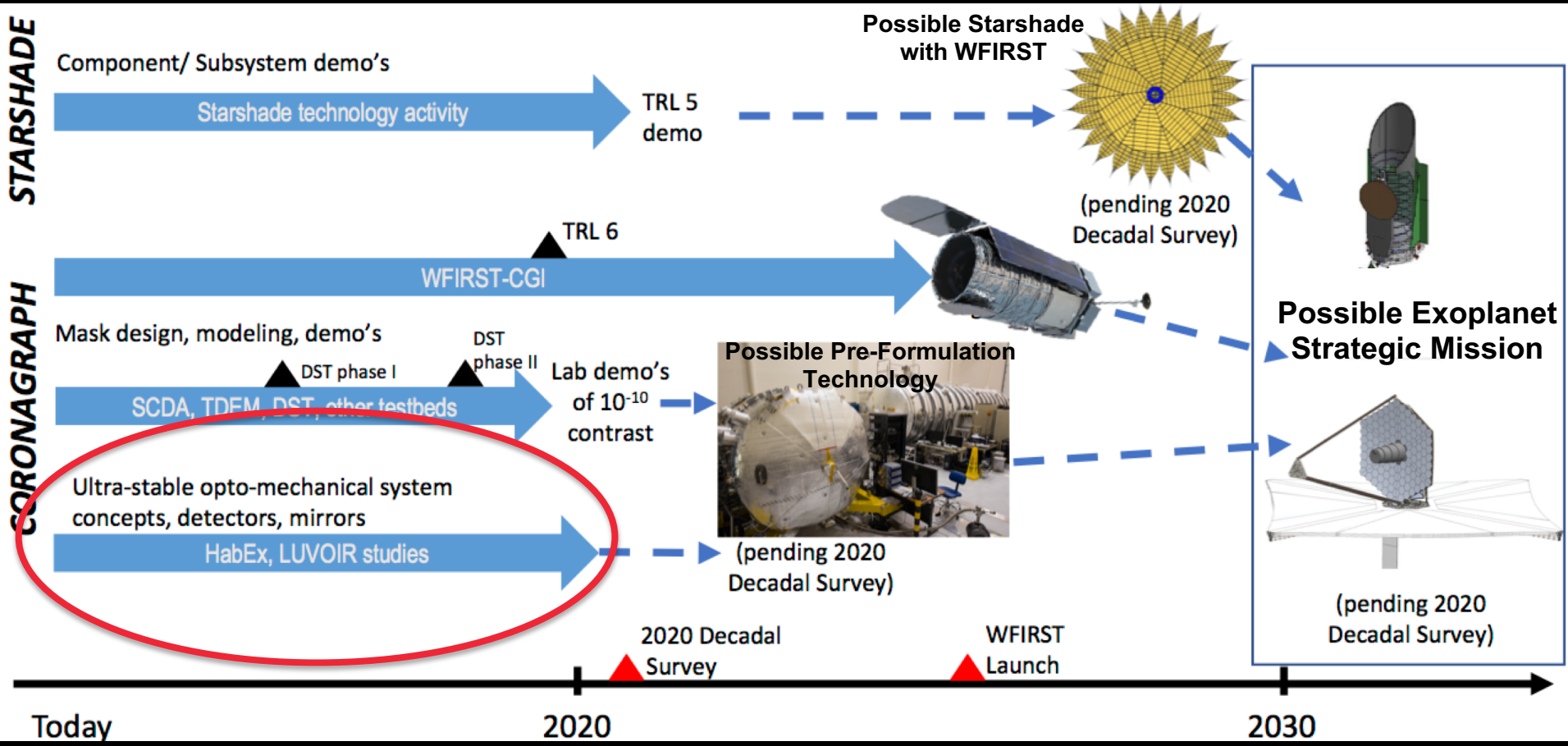
Decadal Survey Testbed

Phase I: aiming to meet 10^{-10} contrast with 10% band and a clear aperture in 2018

Phase II: replace clear pupil with a segmented/obscured (static) aperture in 2019

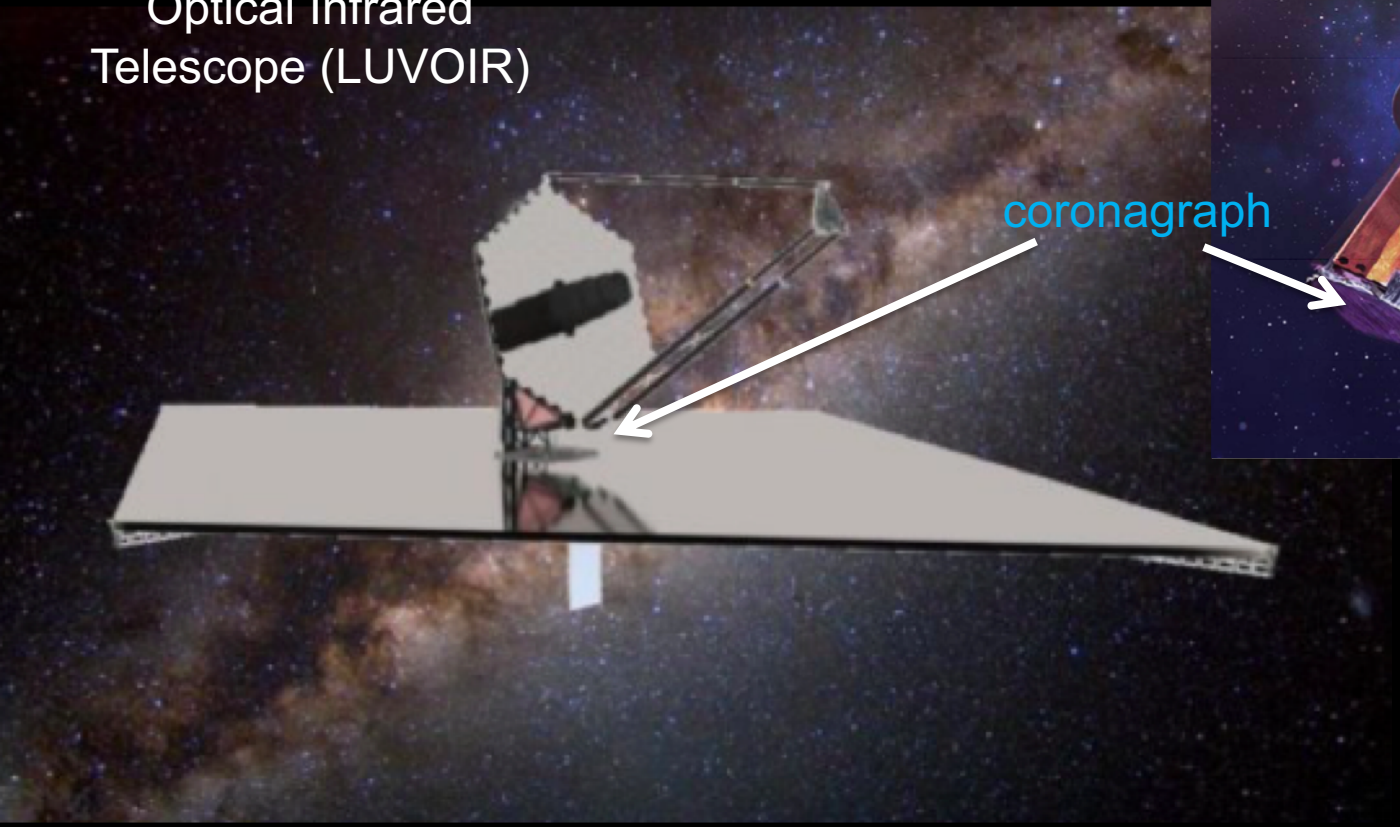
Phase III: replace static aperture with a dynamic segmented/obscured telescope simulator in 2020

Possible Technology Path to Imaging Exo-Earth

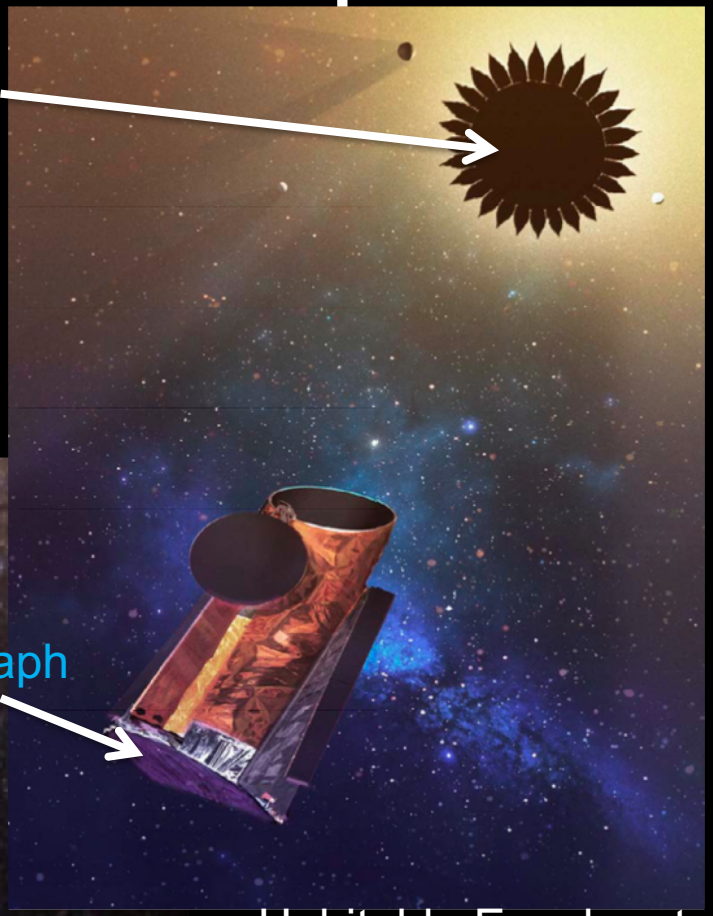


HabEx and LUVOIR interim reports are now available

Possible New Worlds Exoplanet Telescopes
(mid-2030s)



Large Ultra-Violet Optical Infrared Telescope (LUVOIR)



Habitable Exoplanet Imaging Mission (HabEx)

LUVOIR Mission Concept

(see talk this morning)

15m on-axis mirror (120 ~1.5m segments) space telescope using a coronagraph

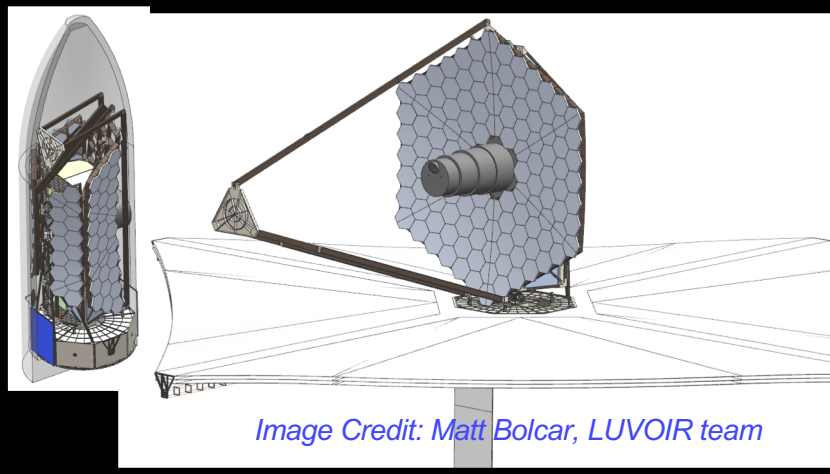
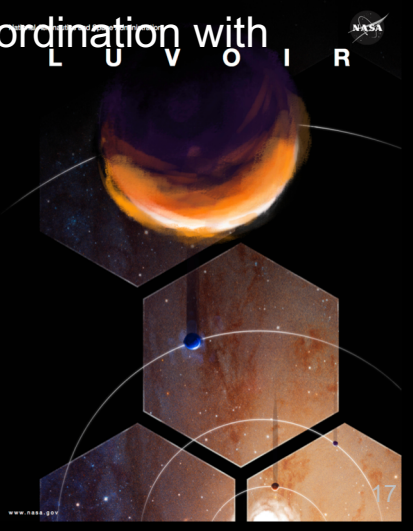


Image Credit: Matt Bolcar, LUVOIR team

Key Technologies:

- An ultra-stable opto-mechanical structure enabling 10 pm rms wavefront stability
  - isolation stages, laser metrology, capacitive edge sensors, thermal control
- Segmented-aperture coronagraphy at 10^{-10} contrast, ≥ 10% band
  - APLC design is the leading candidate – work being done in coordination with SCDA
  - needs to be demonstrated in the lab
- Meter-class segmented mirrors with SFE < 5 nm rms
- ultra-low noise near-infrared detectors

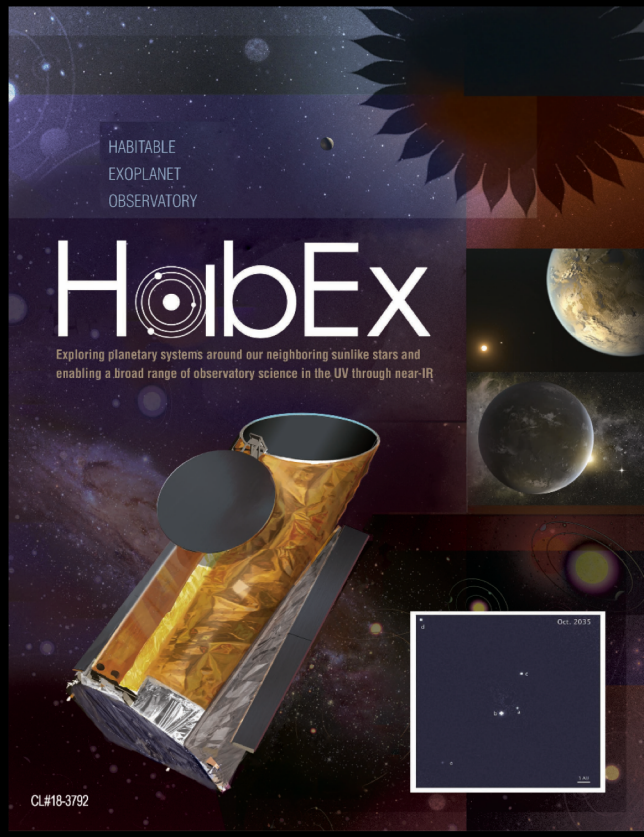


HabEx Mission Concept

(see R. Morgan talk, next)

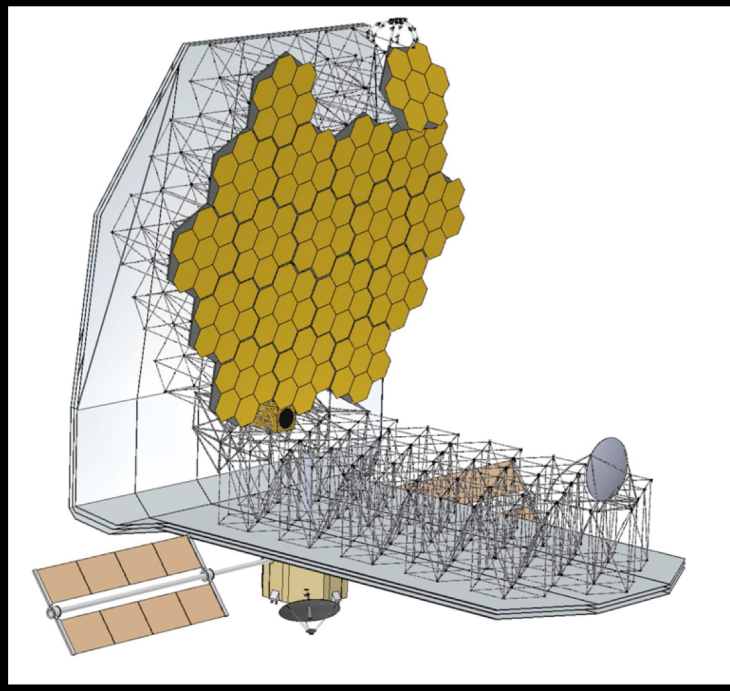
- Off-axis 4 m monolith telescope primary equipped with both a starshade and a coronagraph for starlight suppression

- **Key technologies:**
  - 52 m diameter starshade
    - architecture goes beyond WFIRST rendezvous architecture
  - 4 m glass monolith for space with 1 nm stability
    - Largest monolith ever flown
  - Microthrusters replacing reaction wheels for fine pointing
    - Successfully flight qualified as part of LISA Pathfinder
  - ultra-low noise near-infrared detectors

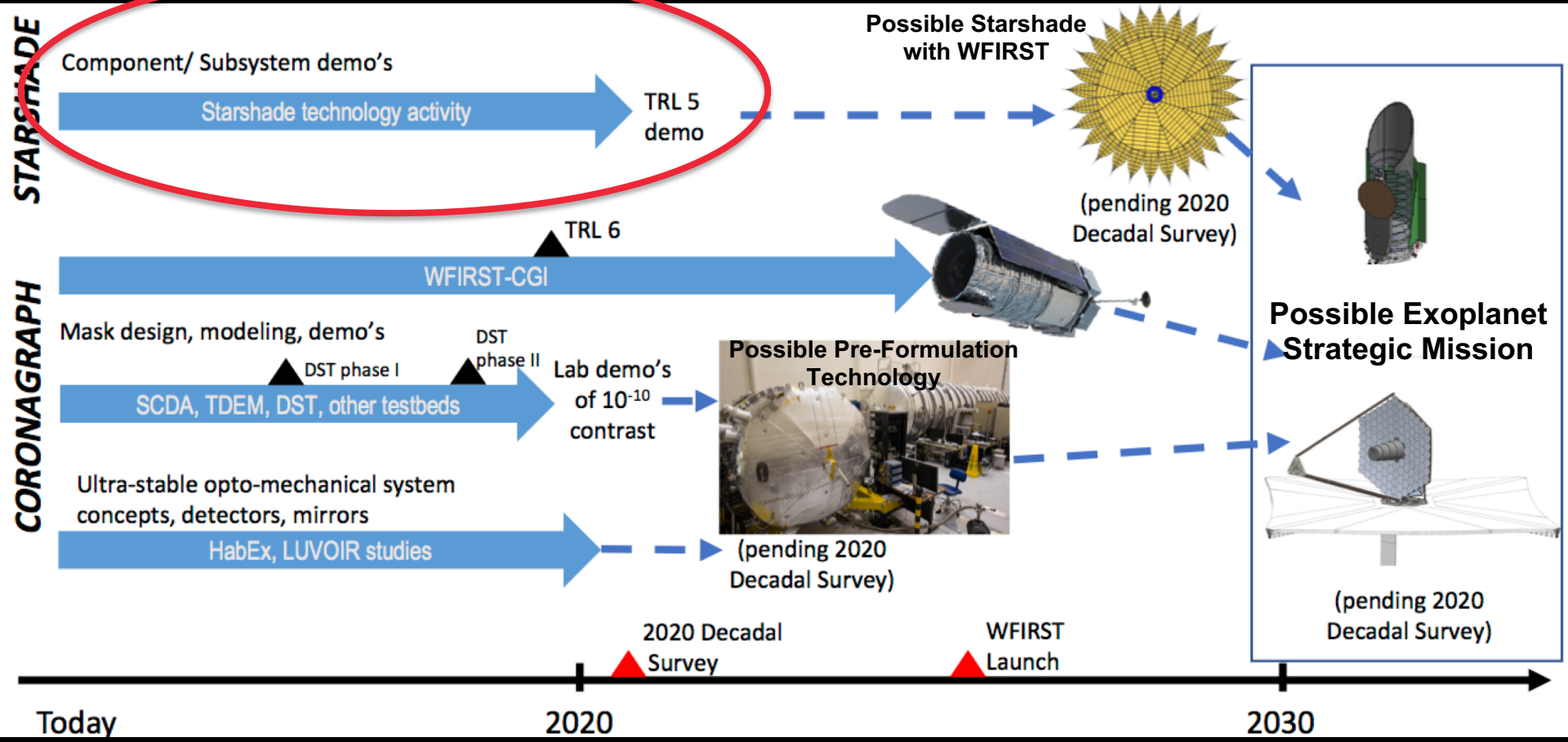


In-Space Assembled Telescope (iSAT) Study

- Chartered by NASA SMD and APD to answer the question
  When is it worth assembling telescopes in space rather than building them on the Earth and deploying them autonomously from individual launch vehicles?
- Study Leads: Nick Siegler (JPL), Harley Thronson (GSFC), Rudra Mukherjee (JPL)
- Final deliverable is a White Paper to the Decadal Survey Committee in Spring 2019
- Activity 1a: Modularizing a 20 m space telescope
  - Workshop held at Caltech June 5-7
- Activity 1b: Assembling and testing the 20 m modularized telescope in space
  - Robotics, orbit, launch vehicle, assembly platform
  - Workshop held October 2-4 at LaRC



Possible Technology Path to Imaging Exo-Earth

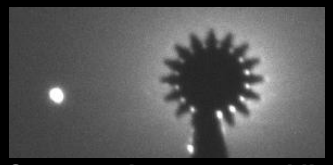


Starshade Technologies

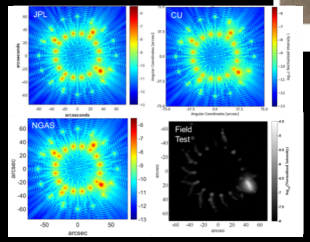
Maturing to TRL 5

(see P. Willems talk, Wednesday a.m.)

Starlight Suppression



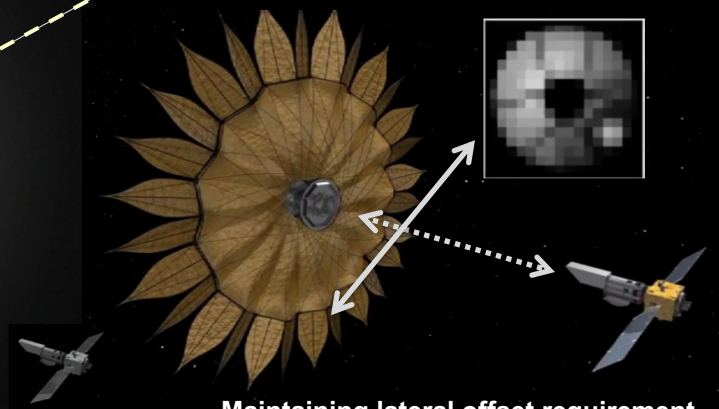
Suppressing scattered light off petal edges from off-axis Sunlight



Model Validation & suppressing diffracted light from on-axis starlight

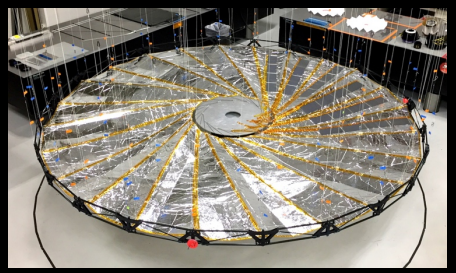
(see A. Harness talk, Wedesday a.m.)

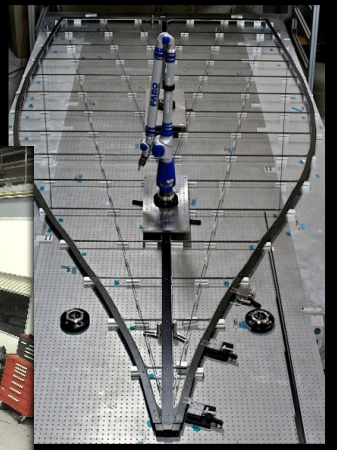
Formation Sensing



Maintaining lateral offset requirement between the spacecraft

Deployment Accuracy and Shape Stability



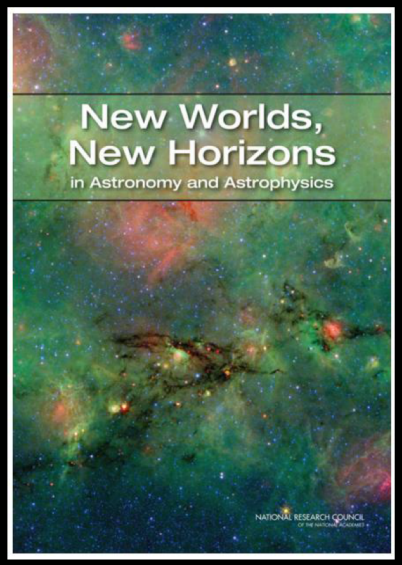


Fabricating the petals to high accuracy

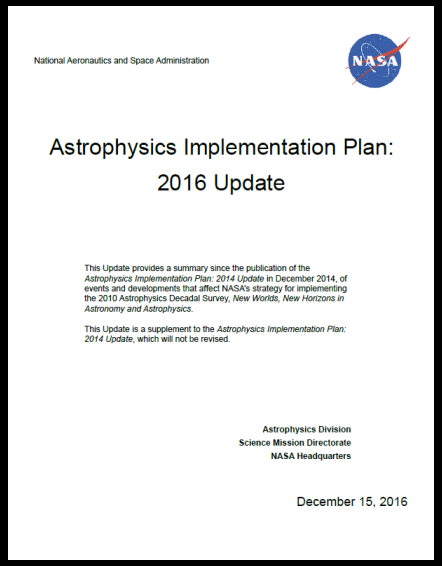
(see Freebury talks, Wedesday a.m.)

Positioning the petals to high accuracy, blocking on-axis starlight, maintaining overall shape on a highly stable structure

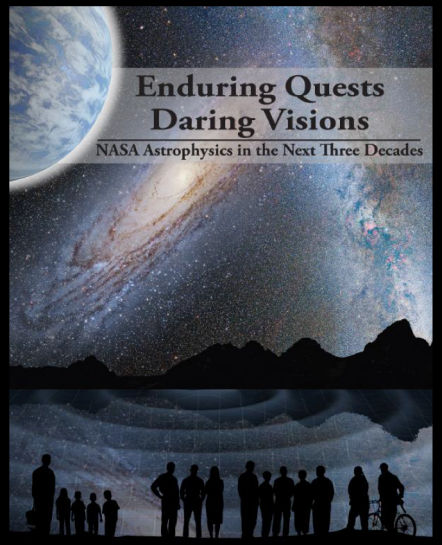
Towards an exo-Earth imaging and characterization mission



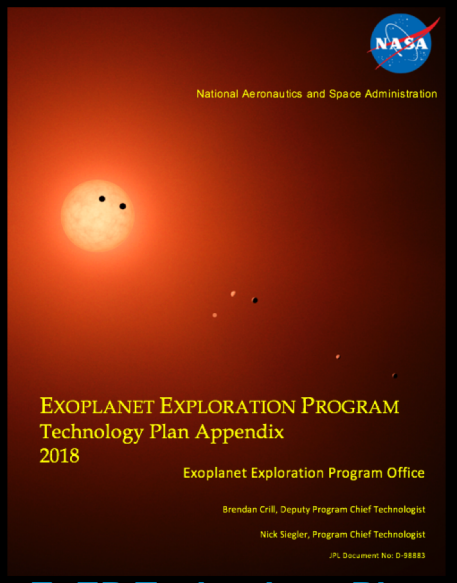
2010 Decadal Survey



APD Implementation Plan (2012, 2014, 2016)



NASA APD
30 year vision (2013)



ExEP Technology Plan Appendix (2018): updated annually

- STDT final reports (early 2019)
- 2020 Decadal Survey final report (December 2020)
  - will set the nation's science priorities, including recommendations for NASA astrophysics missions

Acknowledgements

This work was conducted at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration