

The Case for an Enceladus New Frontiers Mission

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It is unlikely that a flagship mission devoted to the study of Enceladus will occur in the next few decades but Enceladus remains a compelling science target for a future mission. A limited, well-focused New Frontiers class mission to Enceladus can make major contributions to answering some of the fundamental questions we have about the satellite's activity, the solar system, its formation and evolution, and the likelihood that other habitable environmental niches occur outside the Earth's biosphere. We recommend: 1) the acknowledgement that limited, well-focused missions to Enceladus can make major contributions to answering fundamental science questions, 2) the expansion of the target list for New Frontiers class missions to include Enceladus and 3) the recommendation that studies be conducted to identify the range of possible missions that can be flown under the New Frontiers line of missions.
