NEW HORIZONS

Shedding Light on Frontier Worlds

The Pluto System on the Eve of Exploration by New Horizons: Perspectives and Predictions

A Scientific Conference

July 22–26, 2013

Local Organizing Chair:
Dr. Hal Weaver,
New Horizons Project Scientist

Program Committee Chair:
Dr. Alan Stern,
New Horizons Principal Investigator

At the Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, MD

Co-Sponsored by:
The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and
The Southwest Research Institute

April 15, 2013: Abstract Deadline
May 31, 2013: Early Bird Registration Deadline

http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/conference

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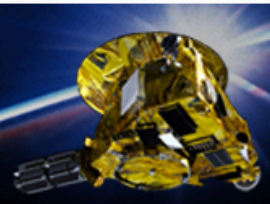

Laurel, Maryland

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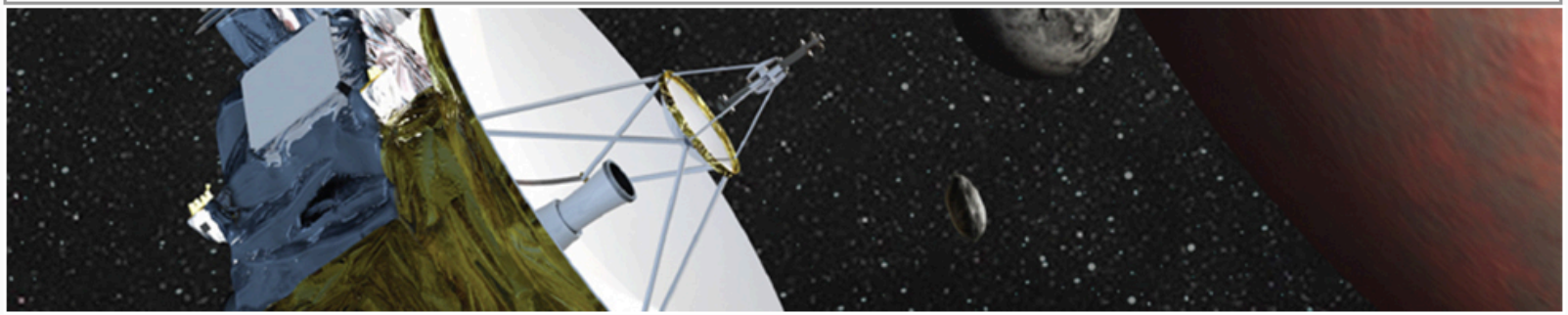

In 2015, NASA's New Horizons mission will conduct the first-ever reconnaissance of the Pluto system.

Pluto—a dwarf planet never before explored by spacecraft, along with its complex system of moons—has been the subject of scientific study and speculation since Clyde Tombaugh discovered it in 1930, orbiting the Sun far beyond Neptune.

By the 1990s, it became clear that Pluto possessed multiple exotic ices on its surface, a complex atmosphere and seasonal cycles, and a large moon suggesting a giant impact origin for the pair. Also in the 1990s it became clear that Pluto was no misfit among the planets, as had long been thought; instead, it was revealed to be the largest and brightest body in the Kuiper Belt—a newly discovered "third zone" of our planetary system. More recently, observations have revealed that Pluto has an unexpectedly rich system of satellites and a surface that changes over time. It has even been speculated that Pluto may possess an internal ocean. For these and other reasons, the 2003 Planetary Decadal Survey ranked a Pluto Kuiper Belt mission as the highest priority mission for NASA's newly created New Frontiers program.

New Horizons is now 70% of the way along its journey to the Pluto system. It carries a sophisticated package with eight scientific instruments comprised of imagers, UV and IR spectrographs, plasma analyzers, a dust counter, and radio science. This payload was designed to reconnoiter the surfaces, atmospheres, interiors, and space environments of Pluto and its rich system of satellites, shedding light on the abundant new planetary class called *ice dwarfs*.

In preparation for the flyby of the Pluto system culminating in July 2015, the New Horizons project team will hold a scientific conference at The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland on 22-26 July 2013.

Meeting Deadlines

April 15, 2013	Abstract Deadline
May 31, 2013	Early Bird Registration Deadline
June 15, 2013 (posters only)	Late Abstract Deadline
July 21, 2013	Meeting Reception
July 22-26, 2013	Meeting Dates
TBD	Contributed Paper Deadline

In preparation for the flyby of the Pluto system culminating in July 2015, the New Horizons project team will hold a scientific conference at The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland on 22-26 July 2013.

Holding this conference two years before the encounter will allow the mission science team and interested members of the planetary science community to:

- **Integrate the broad range of existing datasets and perspectives about this system and its context in the Kuiper Belt**
- **Discuss and begin to prepare ground-based and other observing proposals to provide additional context alongside the New Horizons encounter**
- **Introduce potential new mission collaborators and those interested in participating in Pluto system data analysis programs to the details of the scientific investigations planned during the 6-month New Horizons encounter**

Local Organizing Committee Chair: Hal Weaver, New Horizons Project Scientist
Local Organizing Committee: Andrew Cheng, Cindy Conrad, Glen Fountain, Don Jennings, Ralph McNutt, Margaret Simon, and Alan Stern

Program Committee Chair: Alan Stern, New Horizons Principal Investigator
Program Committee: Andrew Cheng, Fran Bagenal, Francesca DeMeo, Rick Binzel, Will Grundy, Hal Levison, Bill McKinnon, Jeff Moore, Darrell Strobel, Hal Weaver, and Leslie Young

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