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# Science Enabled by the Global Exploration Roadmap

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## The Global Exploration Roadmap: towards an integrated scientific and societal case for global space exploration

An ambitious programme of robotic and human space exploration, such as envisaged by the GlobalExploration Roadmap, will add greatly to human knowledge. Gathering such knowledge is the primary aim of science, but science's compartmentalisation into isolated academic disciplines tends to obscure the overall strength of the scientific case. Any consideration of the scientific arguments for space exploration must therefore take a holistic view, and integrate the potential benefits over the entire spectrum of human knowledge. Moreover, science is only one thread in a much larger overall case for space exploration. Other threads include economic, industrial, educational, geopolitical and cultural benefits [1]. Any responsibly formulated public space policy must weigh all of these factors before deciding whether or not an investment in human space activities is scientifically and socially desirable, and the Global Exploration Roadmap is a significant positive step in this direction.

[1] Crawford, I.A., ``Towards an Integrated Scientific and Social Case for Human Space Exploration," *Earth, Moon and Planets,* 94(3-4), 245-266, (2005). http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucfbiac/Space%20Interests_files/EMP_HSF_paper.pdf