



# Planetary Science Division Update

*Presentation at the AGU  
NASA Science Night*

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## Mars Science Laboratory



- Administrator has made the decision to delay launch of MSL from 2009 to Fall 2011
- Currently MSL Project activities include:
  - Major schedule & budget replan to new launch date
  - Re-manifesting the launch to 2011
- MSL will stay within its FY09 budget
  - Overrun will occur in FY10-11 and is expected to be several hundred million dollars
- Only one resulting action so far:
  - The release of NF-3 AO (was to be Feb) is on hold until approved go forward plan is in place

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# Next Steps



- Several options to handle the MSL cost overrun within the Planetary Science Division have been created
  - Use the “Guiding Principles” determined by the Planetary Science Subcommittee (PSS)
  - Mars programs effected the most; then the rest of planetary; delaying missions preferable to cancellation
- After initial discussions with OMB the options will be discussed with the PSS
  - Next PSS meeting is now set for January 9, 2009
  - Expect the PSS recommendations soon after
- Final results and recommended approach will be presented to the NASA Advisory Committee (NAC-SC), in February 2009
  - Implemented in NASA’s budget development process
- Began the process to assess the causes of the MSL cost overruns to prevent similar situations for future missions (ie: Next Flagship)

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# Outer Planets Flagship Studies



- NASA-ESA joint studies of Jupiter System and Saturn System Science for an outer planets flagship mission
  - Studies concentrated on costing the “sweet spot” science missions - best decadal science per dollar
  - NASA aligned its schedule with ESA: 2018-2022 launch date
- Phase II studies delivered in early November
  - Science & Technical panel completing evaluations
  - Briefing of finding to NASA/ESA Science heads in Jan. 2009
  - Technical implementation/readiness will be critical
  - Academy will be consulted if science issues arise
- One destination will go forward as a joint NASA/ESA effort
  - ESA: Continue as a part of the larger Cosmic Visions selection process (OPF in competition with 2 astrophysics missions)
  - NASA: technical risk reduction, mission implementation plan, and budget plan

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# Upcoming Events



- Nearly complete:
  - Selections for NASA Lunar Science Institute nodes
  - Selection on the LADEE dust detector
- Other selections from the Stand-Alone Mission of Opportunity Notification (SALMON) unaffected by MSL delay
  - U.S. Participating investigator program
  - Instrument mission of opportunity
- LEAG: Community input needed for ranking and time-phasing of **Lunar** objectives & investigations
  - Go to: <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/survey/LER>
  - Log in: leag
  - Password: moonorbust
- At AGU: Discussion on upcoming Planetary Decadal Survey (Room 3018) going on now

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