

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



A Process For Technology Prioritization In A Competitive Environment

In Space Propulsion Technology Project

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

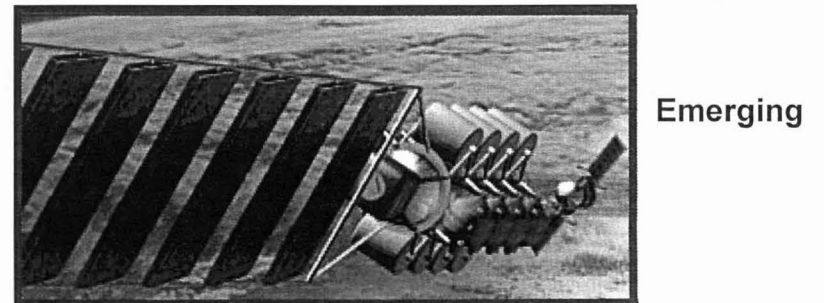
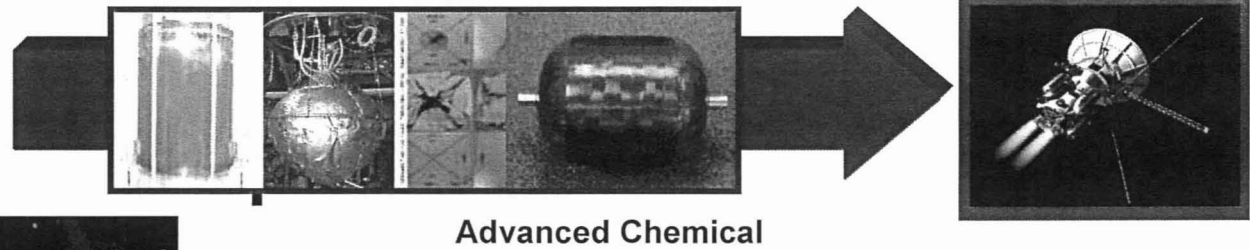
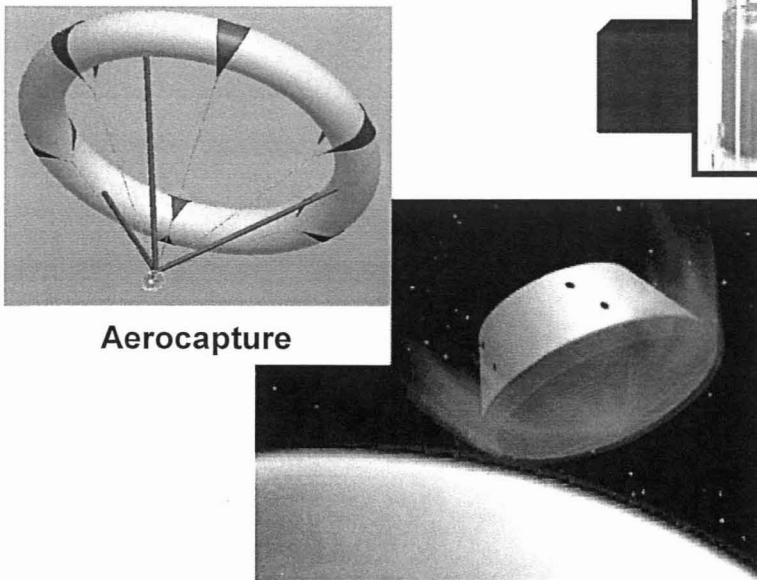
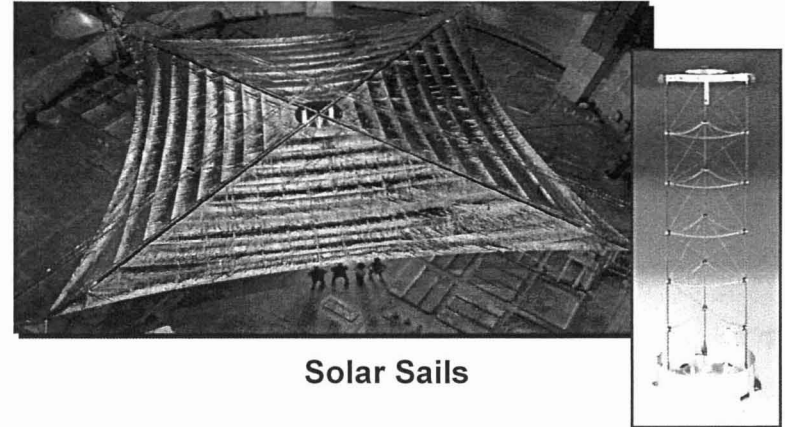
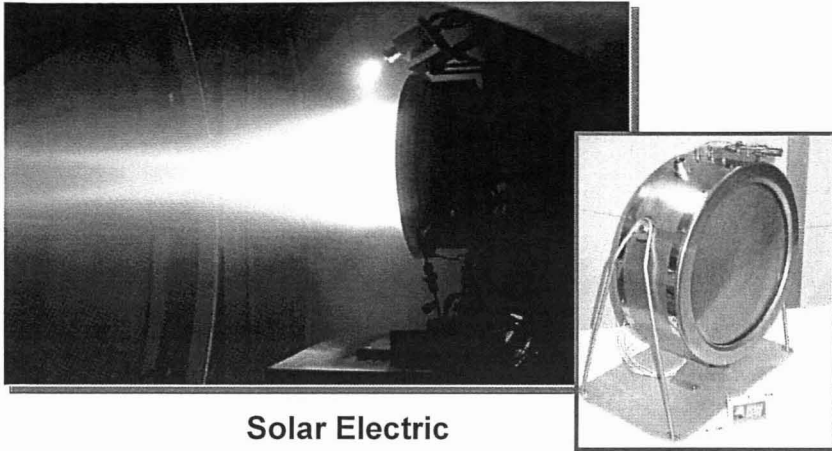
Karen Stephens & Melody Herrmann/NASA MSFC

Brand Griffin/Gray Research Inc.

42nd AIAA Joint Propulsion Conference

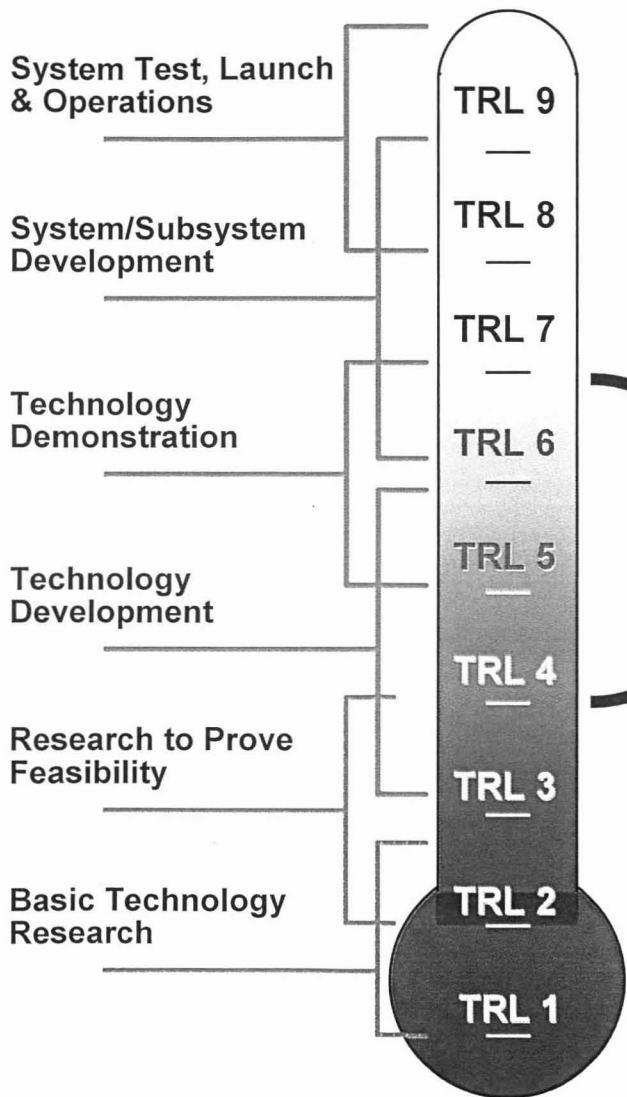
July 9 - 12, 2006

In-Space Propulsion Technology (ISPT) Project

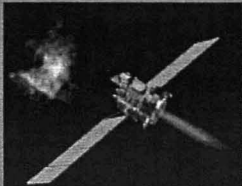




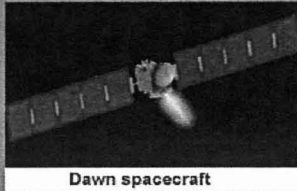
ISPT Focuses On Mid-TRL Propulsion System Development and Integration



Flight Validation and Mission Implementation: (Solar Electric Propulsion example)



NSTAR (Deep Space 1)

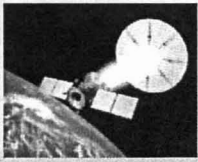
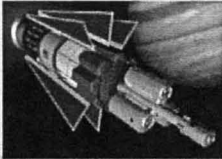


Dawn spacecraft
Dawn (In Development)

In-Space Propulsion Technologies

- Advanced Chemical
- Aerocapture
- Solar Electric
- Solar Sail

Research (not part of ISPT)



Mission Driven Technology Planning Activity



Objective:

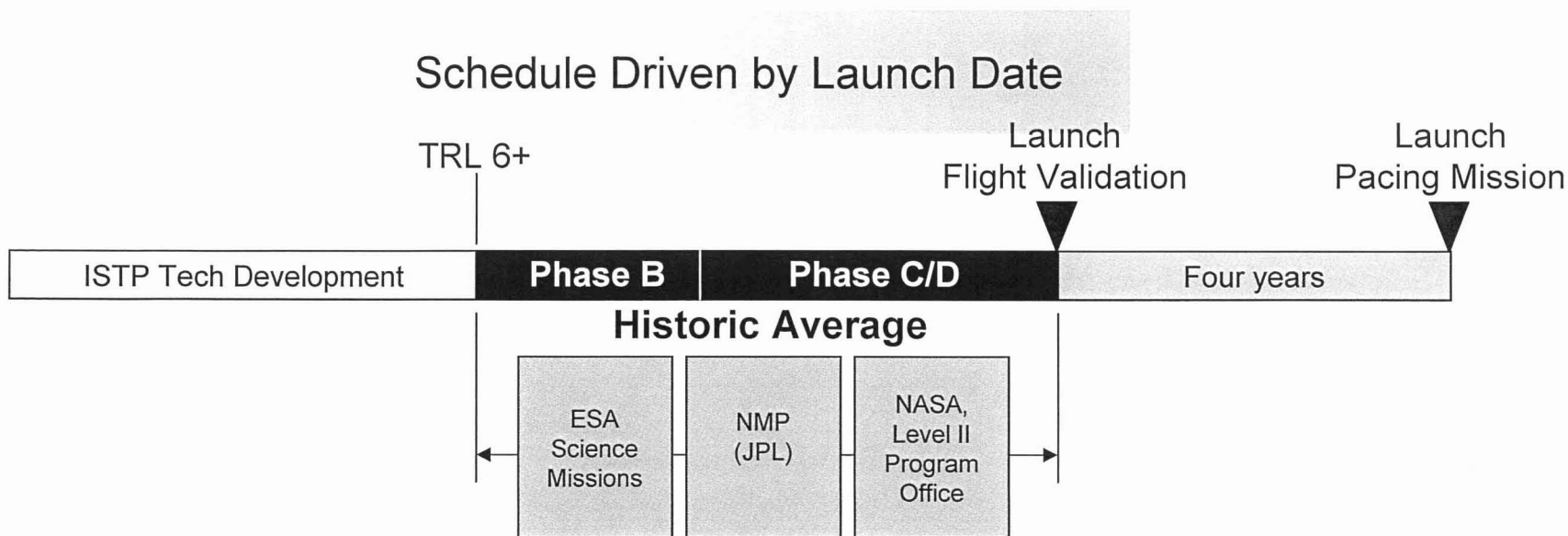
Identify the current, most likely “need date” for each technology and create ISPT technology area development schedules based on this “mission pull”

Base schedules on:

- Launch date of first flight opportunity (pacing mission)
- Historic average for spacecraft program implementation phases

Ground Rules:

- All technologies require flight validation (except NSTAR Heritage or commercial EP)
- Minimum 4 years between successful flight validation and pacing mission



Mission Driven Technology Planning



Why was this activity undertaken?

- Content for upcoming NASA/ISPT NRA (2006 ROSES) was needed. Technology teams needed to formulate acquisition strategy for coming years' requirements. ISPT program management needed to prioritize acquisitions.
- Early planning for POP06 was underway.
- ISPT examining agency mission priorities and ISPT technology progress relative to evolving mission needs. Planning activity would enhance future reprioritization if budget fluctuations required it
- Majority of ISPT technologies were maturing beyond the “tech push” (TRL 1-3) to “mission pull” (TRL 4-6) phase. Need for the program to orient to “1st mission” for product-focused forward progress.

ISPT needed to identify the “pacing mission” for each technology to determine optimal funding for each of the technology areas within the expected program budget.

ISPT Systems Analysis Technology Area for Independent Assessment

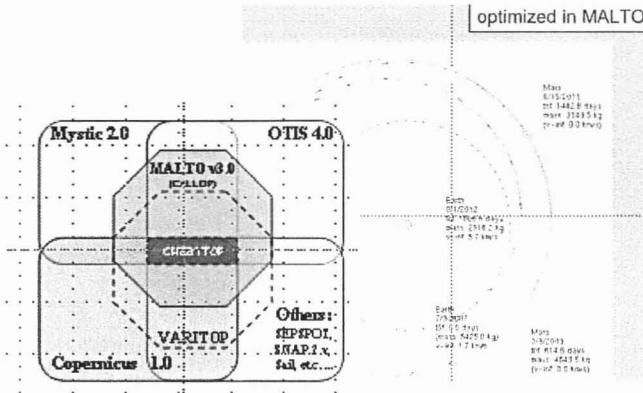


Charter of ISPT Systems Analysis:

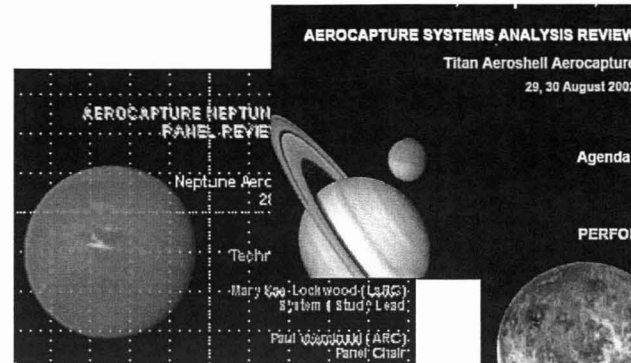
- Provide quantified inputs to ISPT Technology Project management to support investment decisions through parametric studies to show benefits of in-space propulsion technologies compared to state-of-the-art for destinations approved by the Science Mission Directorate (SMD).
- Drive out technology development challenges by conducting concept definition studies in sufficient detail to identify potential problem areas that help define and focus technology investments
- Develop systems analysis tools to promote common methods for reproducible results within each community

Systems analysis provides a non-biased assessment for critical data used in determining funding priorities and program direction.

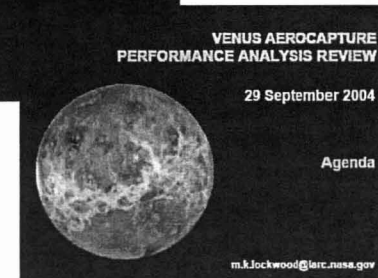
Systems Analysis Studies, Trades & Improved Tools to Guide Investments



- Consistent LT Trajectories
- SOA algorithms/methods
- Multi-year, Inter-agency team



- TPS Design Tool
- Radiation Model
- LAURA/LORAN



- ◆ Ion & Hall Engine Performance Sensitivity Studies
- ◆ Ion Propulsion Trades for Scout, Discovery & New Frontiers Missions Generating a Reference DRM
- ◆ Standard Architecture for Gridded Ion: System Definition & Requirements
- ◆ Aerocapture Mars System Study
- ◆ Multipass Aerocapture at Multiple Destinations
- ◆ Solar Sail Heliostorm Mission Study
- ◆ Solar Sail Reqs Definition for Adv Sails & Booms
- ◆ MXER Tether Analysis, Systems Planning & Tools

- ◆ Advanced Propellant & Engine Comparison Studies
- ◆ Advanced Chemical Propulsion System Model (ACPS)
- ◆ Aerocapture Probabilistic Risk Assessment
- ◆ Technology Infusion Studies
- ◆ Direct Trajectory Optimization Model
- ◆ Round Trip Mission Analysis Model

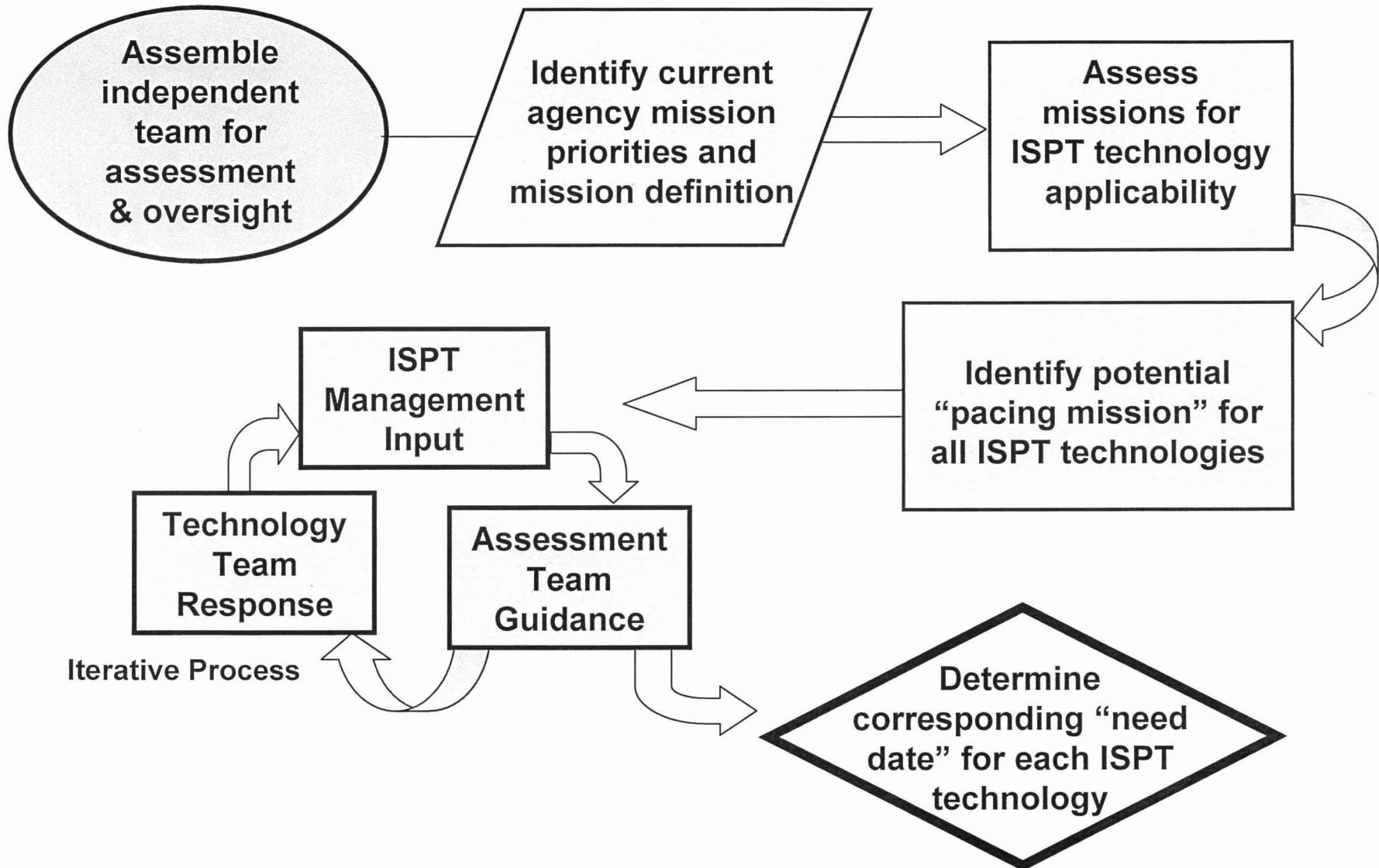


Central Question

- ◆ How should funding be allocated in a product focused technology development program?
 - Squeaky wheel gets the grease
 - Last up at bat
 - Best track record
 - Manager's pet project
 - **None of the Above!**

- ◆ Need a priority-driven process for sequencing technology development and allocating funding.

Process for Activity





References for ISPT Technology Applicability Assessment

SUN-SOLAR SYSTEM CONNECTIONS
Strategic Roadmap
May 22, 2005

SERM 3 – The Solar System Exploration
Strategic Roadmap

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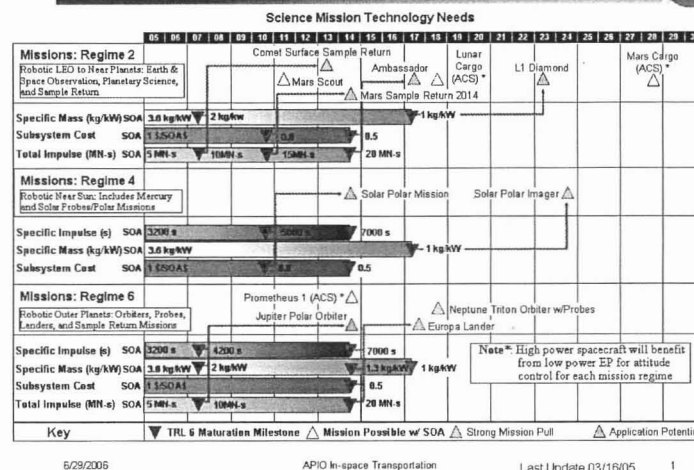
V. Conclusion page 11

Appendix

Drafts of both the SSE and SSSC Roadmaps provided the most recent mission priorities for SMD (2005)

CRAI/APIO effort determined most applicable missions for ISPT technologies (2004)

Low Power EP Mission Technology Metrics for APIO



Mission/Capability Requirements Technology Applicability Matrix

Mission	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT	ISPT
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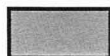
█ Strong Application Potential █ Application Potential, Needs further study
 █ Weak Application Potential █ Application Potential, Unlikely*
 * Does not meet requirements or provides excessive capability

STEAM effort assessed ISPT technologies for 52 candidate missions (2002 & 2003)

SSE Mission Pull



Source	Class	Mission Title	Launch Date	ISP Technology												
				Solar Electric			Aerocapture			Sails			Adv Chem			
				NSTAR	NEXT	Hall	Blunt	LB	Inflat	~ 15 g	5 - 15 g	<5 g	Gels	Lox-Hydrazine	Pump Fed	Mass Reductn
SSE	NF	Pluto-Kuiper Belt Explorer	2006													
SSE	NF	Lunar South Pole Aitken Basin	2010				Earth Return									
SSE	NF	Jupiter Polar Orbiter with Probes	2010													
SSE	NF	Venus In-Situ Explorer	2013													
SSE	NF	Comet Surface (Nucleus) Sample Return (CSSR)	2013				Earth Return									
SSE	F	Europa Geophysical Observer	2015													
SSE	F	Titan Explorer	2020													
SSE	F	Neptune System Mission	2025													
SSE	F	Comet Cryo Nucleus Sample Return	2020				Earth Return									
SSE	F	Venus Sample Return	2020													
SSE	F	Europa Astrobiology Lander	2025													
SSE	Discovery	Near Earth Asteroid SR	every 2 years													
SSE	Discovery	Comet Rendezvous	every 2 years													
SSE	Discovery	Vesta-Ceres Rendezvous	every 2 years													
		Venus Orbiter	every 2 years													



Applicable, studied



Likely Applicable, needs study

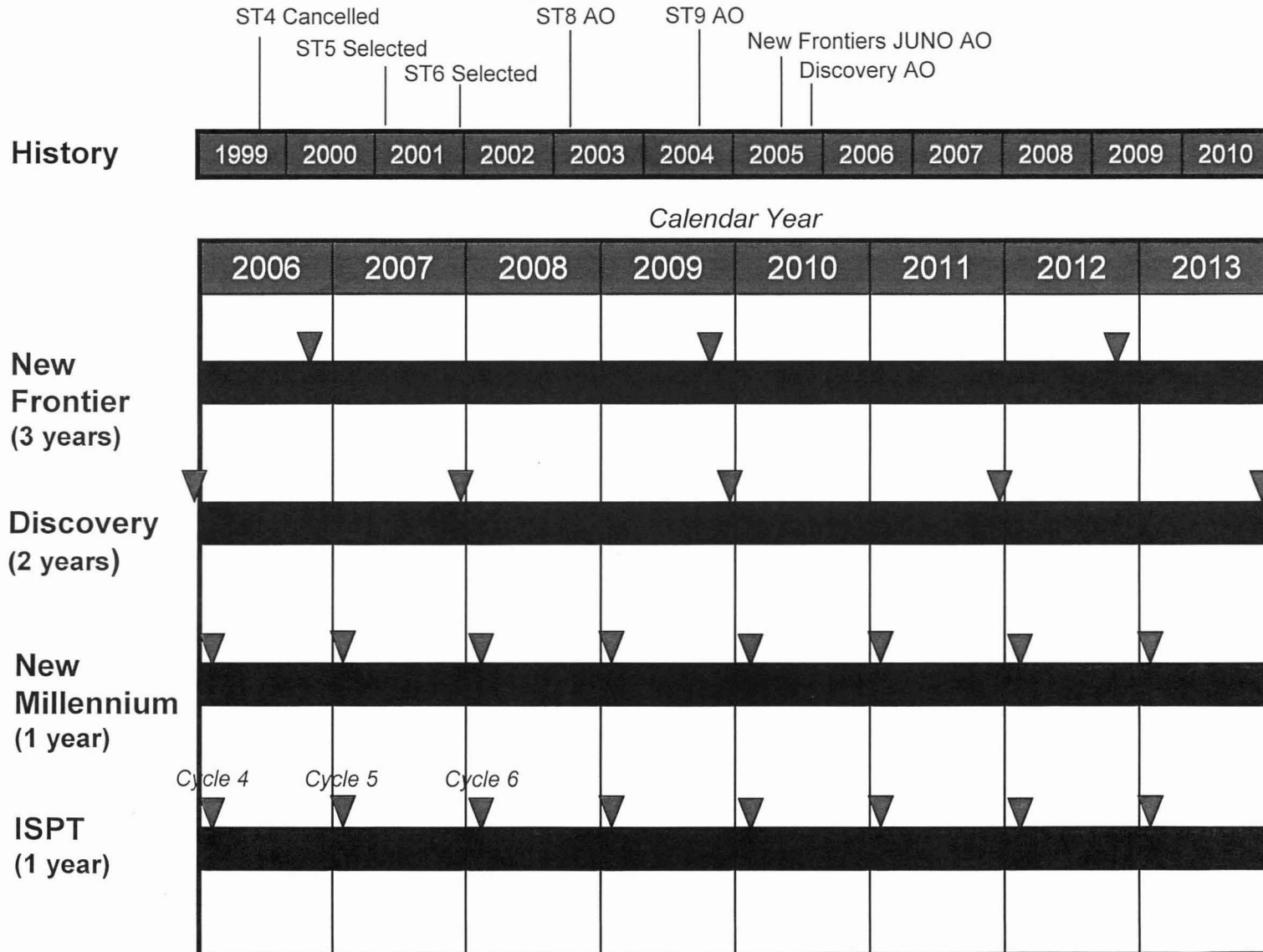
SSSC Mission Pull



Source	Class	Mission Title	Launch Date	ISP Technology													
				Solar Electric			Aerocapture			Sails			Adv Chem				
				NSTAR	NEXT	Hall	Blunt	LB	Inflat	~ 15 g	5 - 15 g	<5 g	Gels	Lox-Hydrazine	Pump Fed	Mass Reductn	
SSSC		Magnetospheric Multi-Scale	2014														
SSSC		Heliostorm	2016														
SSSC		L1 Solar-Climate Explorer (L1SCE)	2016														
SSSC		Geospace Electrodynamic Connections (GEC)	2017														
SSSC		Inner Heliosphere Sentinels (IHS)	2017														
SSSC		L1-Earth-Sun	2018														
SSSC		L1-Missions	2018														
SSSC		Solar Orbiter (Phase 2??)	2018														
SSSC		Solar Probe	2020														
SSSC		DOPPLER	2020														
SSSC		Aeronomy and Dynamics at Mars (ADAM)	2022														
SSSC		Solar Polar Imager	2024														
SSSC		Inner Magnetospheric Constellation (IMC)	2025														
SSSC		Interstellar Probe	2025														
SSSC		Io Electrodynamics	2025														
SSSC		JPO	2025														
SSSC		Mars Atmospheric Reconnaissance Survey (MARS)	2027														
SSSC		MTRAP	2033														
SSSC		Reconnection and Microscale (RAM)	2033														
SSSC		Solar Connection Observatory ... (SCOPE)	2035														

Applicable, studied
 Likely Applicable, needs study

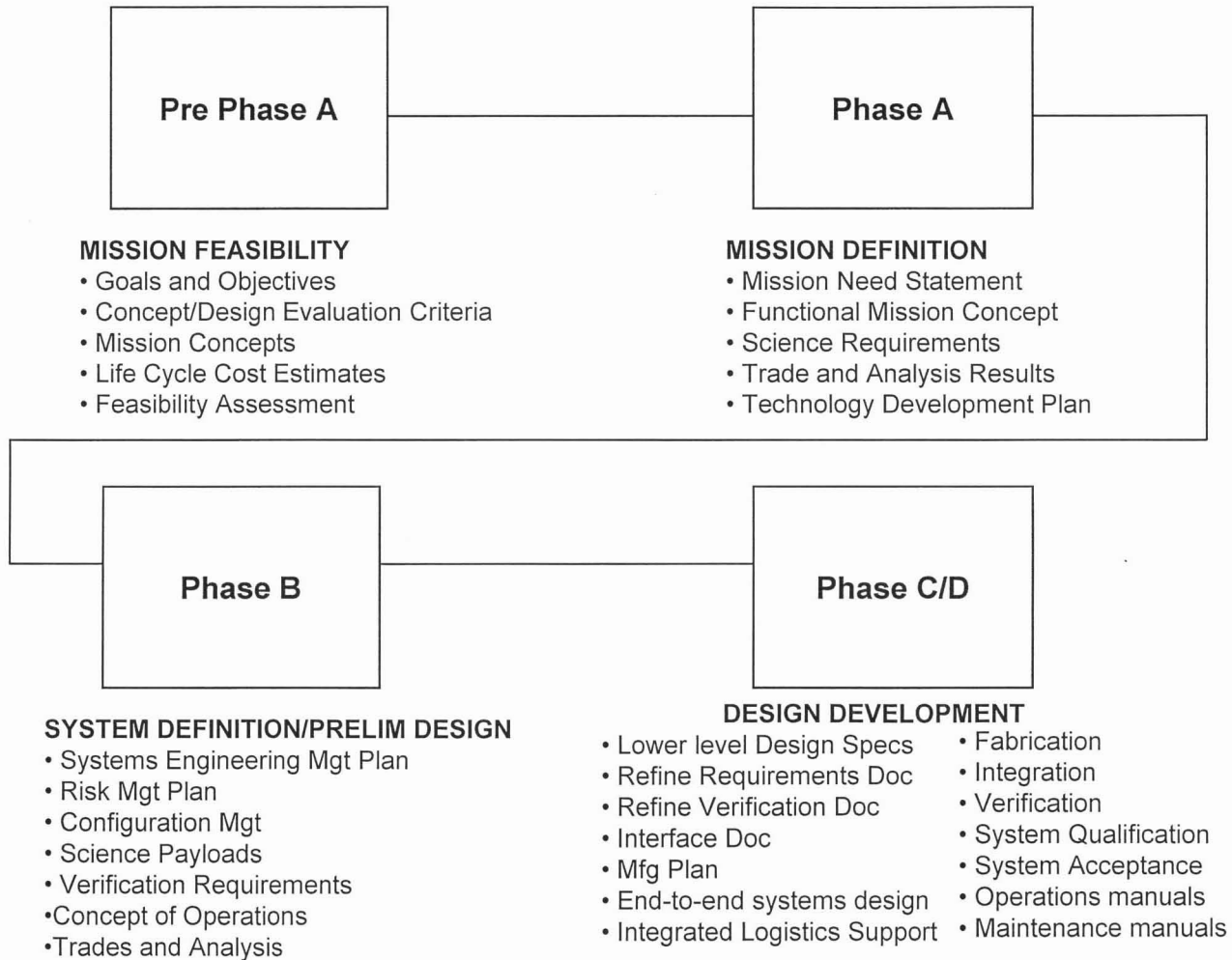
Likely Announcement Opportunities



NASA Development/Procurement

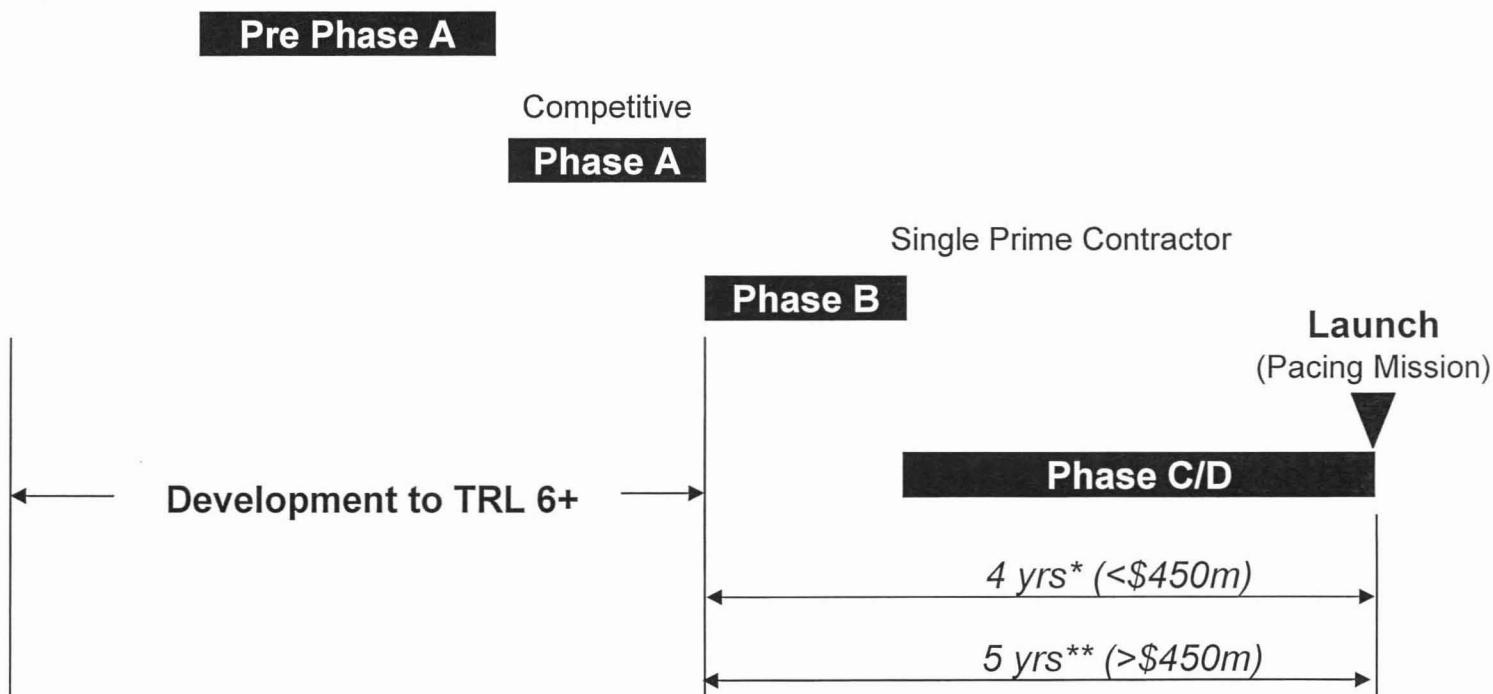
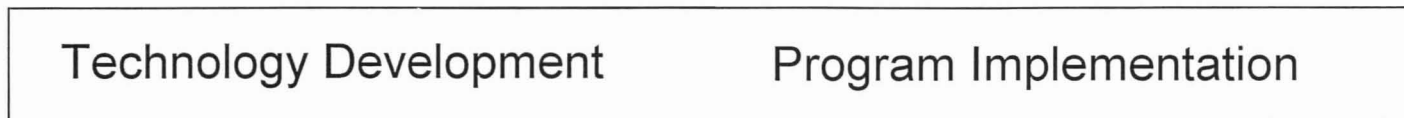


Hardware and Software for entire spacecraft





Schedule Logic



** Average of available data for NASA & ESA missions

Pacing Mission Selection



Similar Development Paths with flight validation and major mission pull

Solar Sail Propulsion

- Flight validation required
- 2016 Heliostorm is pacing mission (optimistic schedule)

Aerocapture Technology

- Flight validation required
- 2020 Titan Explorer is pacing mission for blunt body
- 2025 Neptune System Mission is pacing mission for lifting body

Technologies will be used as soon as developed

Plan to Announcement of Opportunity (Discovery Class ~ every 2 yrs.)

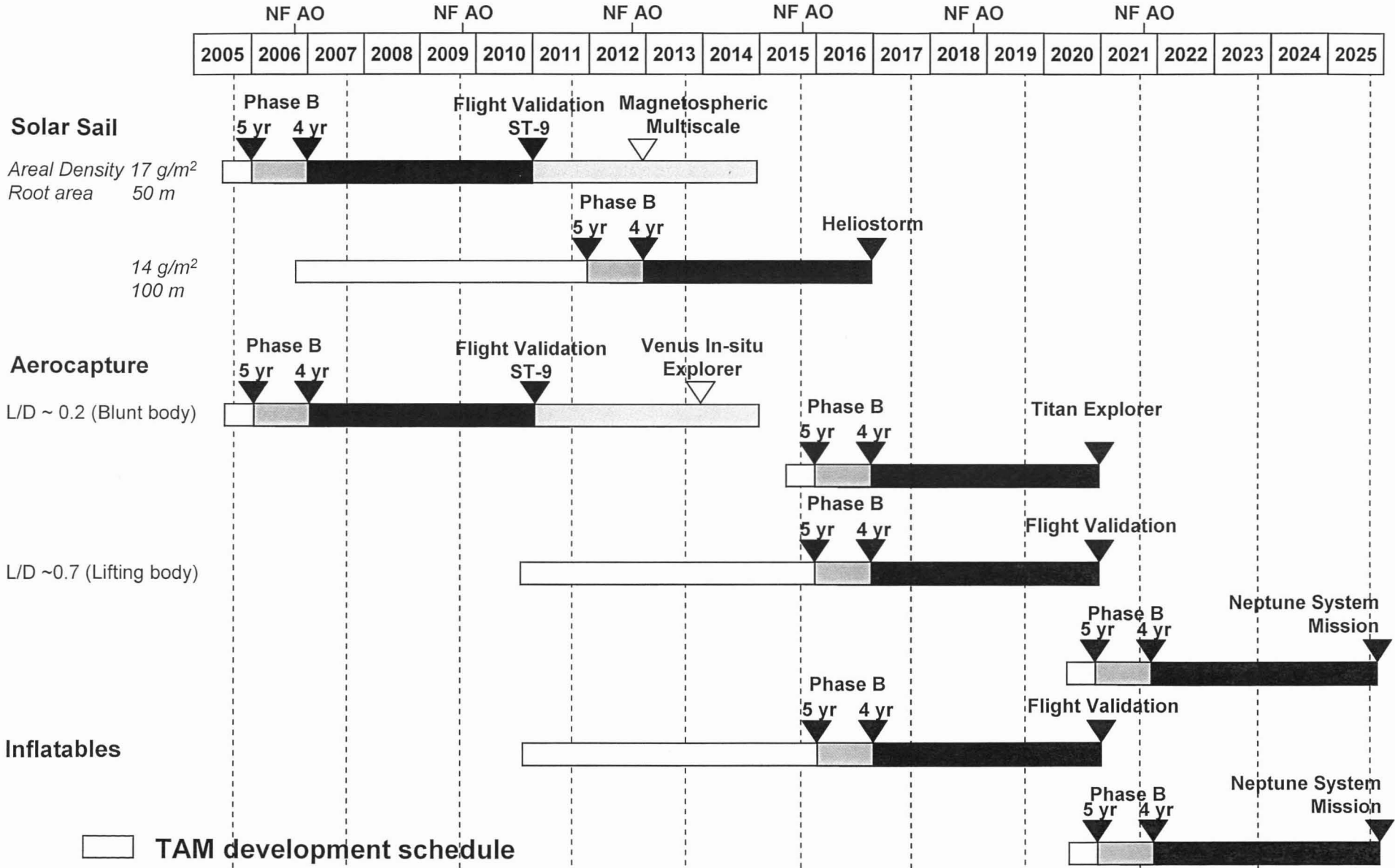
Solar Electric Propulsion

- 2007 Discovery AO for NSTAR with Near Earth Asteroid pacing mission
- 2007 Discovery AO for NEXT with CSSR pacing mission
- 2007 Discovery AO for Hall with Comet Rendezvous pacing mission

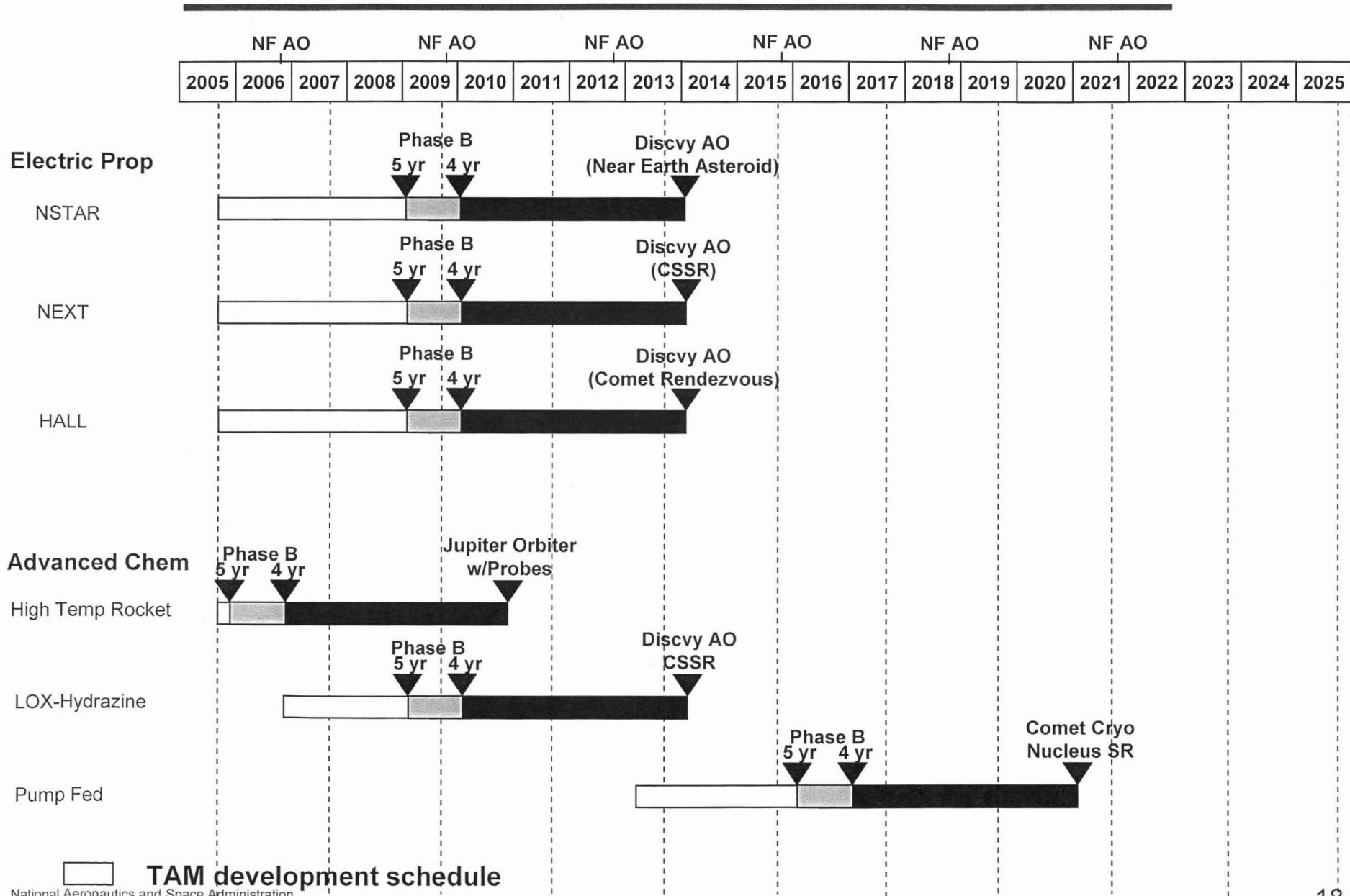
Advanced Chemical Propulsion

- 2007 Discovery AO, 2011 Jupiter Orbiter with Probes for High Temperature Rocket
- 2007 Discovery AO, 2013 CSSR for LOX-Hydrazine
- 2007 Discovery AO, 2020 Comet Cryo Nucleus SR for pump fed

Pacing Mission Technologies 1/2



Pacing Mission Technologies 2/2





Follow-on Activities

- ◆ Each Technology Area used the identified technology “need date” to back out a development schedule.
 - **In some cases, the need date was either not technically or programmatically possible. A later opportunity would become the pacing mission for technology development.**
- ◆ A pacing mission that was in the near future served to increase the priority for funding. A pacing mission that was much later decreased funding priority.
- ◆ After initial programmatic priorities and budgets were set, Technology Areas updated development flows and corresponding project schedules. The funding negotiation was an iterative process.
- ◆ The outcome was a much vetted and thoroughly scrubbed program spending plan that was presented to SMD Management as a technology development plan for FY06 and out years.
- ◆ FY06 Mid year (and beyond) budget reductions disallowed total implementation of the development plan produced.
 - **The process, resulting priorities and technology development plans allowed for timely restructuring of the budget/content for ISPT after the budget reductions**
 - **Program remains focused on high-priority product deliveries that will stay as aligned to customer priorities as possible**



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