

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

# Exoplanet Exploration Program - Updates

Gary Blackwood  
Program Manager

June 13, 2015

ExoPAG 12  
Chicago IL

# NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program

Serving the Science, and Community, by implementing NASA's space science vision for exoplanets and astrophysics



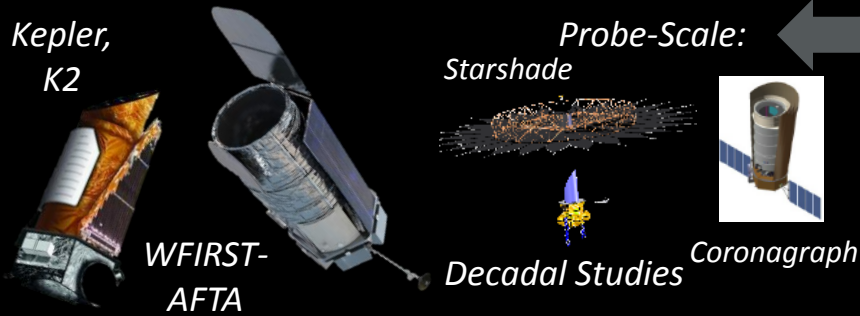
## Purpose described in 2014 NASA Science Plan

1. Discovering planets around other stars
2. Characterizing their properties
3. Identifying candidates that could harbor life



# NASA Exoplanet Exploration Program

## Space Missions and Mission Studies



## Public Engagement



## Supporting Research & Technology

### Key Sustaining Research



Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer

Keck Single Aperture Imaging and RV



Extreme Precision Doppler Spectrometer

### Technology Development



Coronagraph Masks

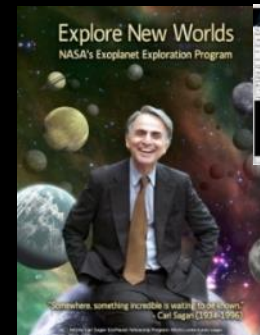


High Contrast Imaging



Deployable Star Shades

### NASA Exoplanet Science Institute



Archives, Tools, Sagan Fellowships, Professional Engagement

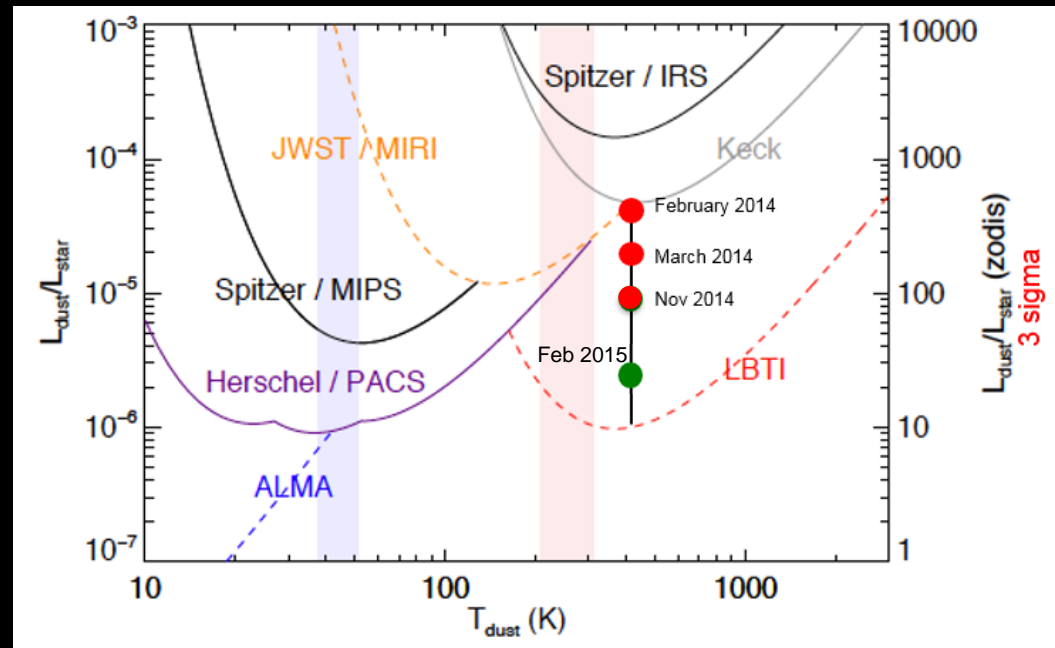
# Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer

Measures exozodiacal dust in habitable zones

Phil Hinz, PI



## LBTI Performance

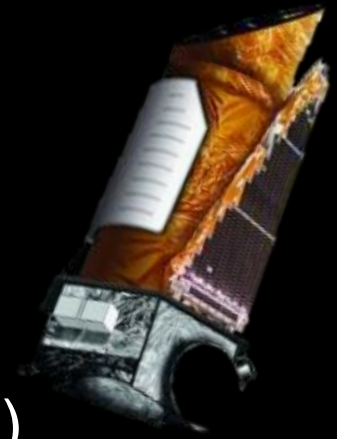


- Demonstrated 12 zodi sensitivity for a solar twin at 10 pc
- **Successfully completed Operational Readiness Review (ORR)** and now conducting Science Validation Phase
- Level 1 requirement: 3 zodi (baseline) and 6 zodi (threshold) on 50 stars
- LBTI nulling data available to public at <http://nexsci.caltech.edu/missions/LBTI/>

M. Jeganathan

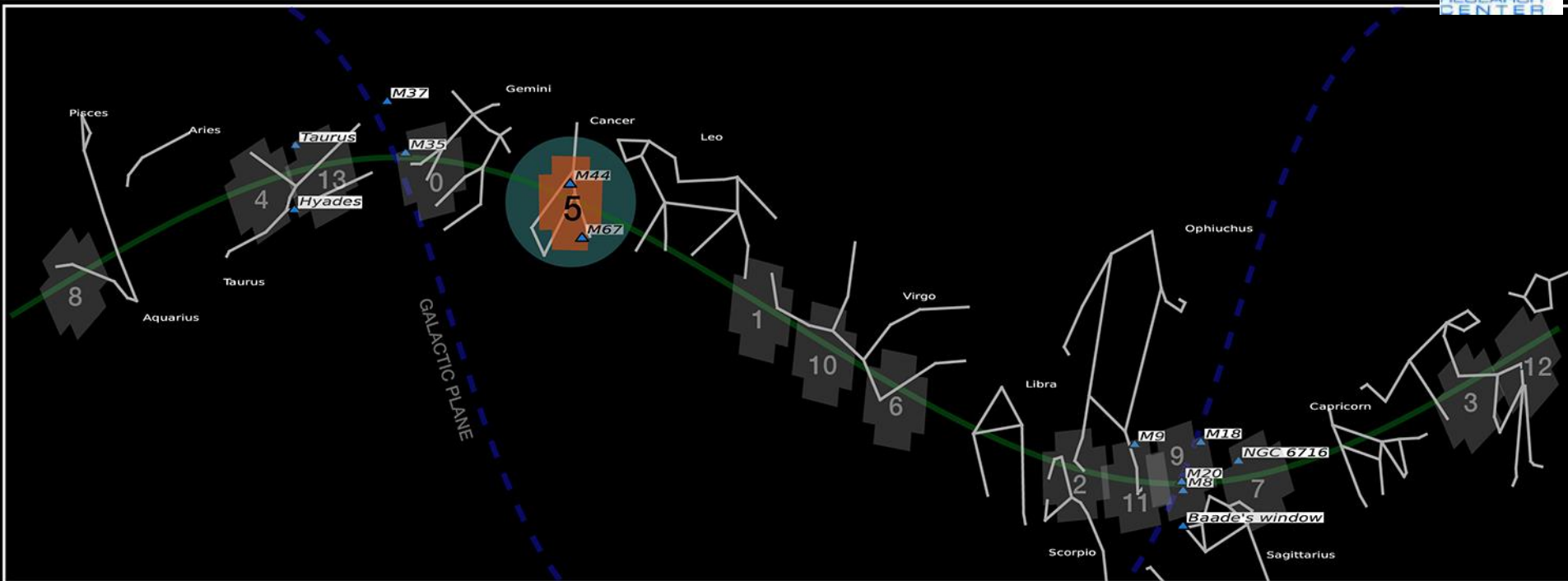
# Kepler Closeout

Harvesting the exoplanet yield from the mission



- Uniform Processing of Q0-Q17 (using SOC 9.2)
  - ✓ – Long cadence light curves Dec 2014
  - ✓ – Short cadence light curves Mar 2015
  - KOI Catalog Oct 2015
  - Occurrence Rate Products ← Community Sep 2015
- Final Data processing of Q0-Q17 (using SOC 9.3)
  - Pipeline Development Complete July 2015
  - Light curves Mar 2016
  - KOI Catalog Nov 2016
  - Occurrence Rate Products ← Community Sep 2016
  - Completeness and Reliability Products Feb 2017

# Kepler K2



Kepler Project, I. Heinrichsen

## Exoplanet Science Goals:

- Identify potentially-habitable planets around bright M-dwarfs near the Sun
- Observe hot planets around bright stars for follow-up transit spectroscopy
- Find small planets to aid measurements of masses, densities and compositions
- Determine if hot gas giants exist around young stars
- Detect and measure masses of free-floating planets using microlensing

# WFIRST / AFTA

## Exoplanet Science via Microlensing and Coronagraphy



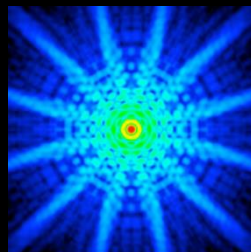
### Microlensing Survey

- Outer planet demographics
- Free-floating planets
- Completes census begun by Kepler

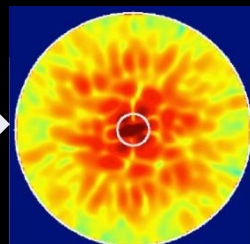
### Exoplanet Direct Imaging

- Imaging and spectroscopy of exoplanet atmospheres down to a few Earth masses,  $R \sim 70$
- $0.4 - 1 \mu\text{m}$  bandpass
- $\leq 10^{-9}$  detection contrast
- 100 mas inner working angle at  $0.4 \mu\text{m}$

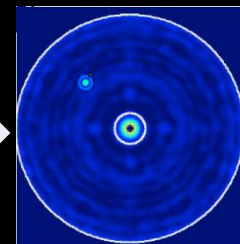
No Mask



With Mask



With Mask and Deformable Mirrors



Coronagraph will develop the technologies for New Worlds Telescope mission



# WFIRST Coronagraph Occulting Mask Technology



- **HLC (Hybrid Lyot Coronagraph)**

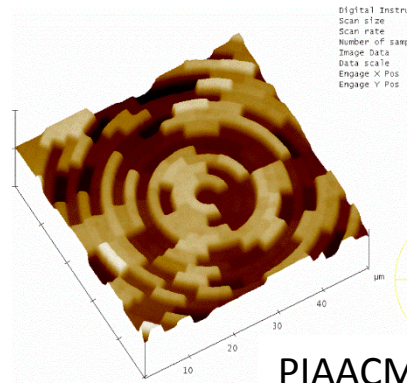
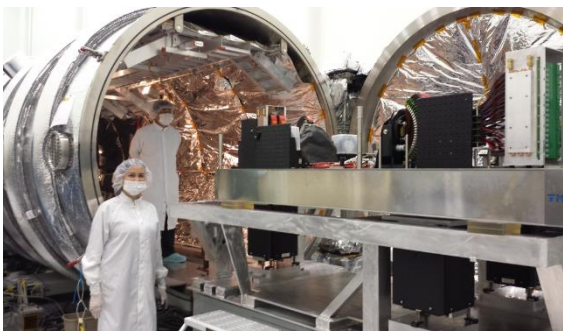
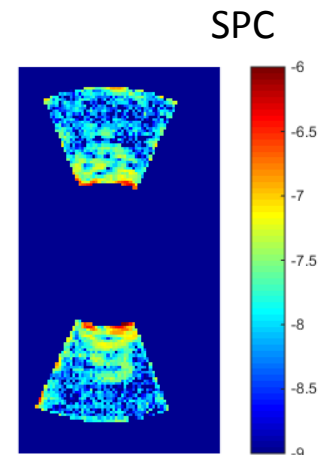
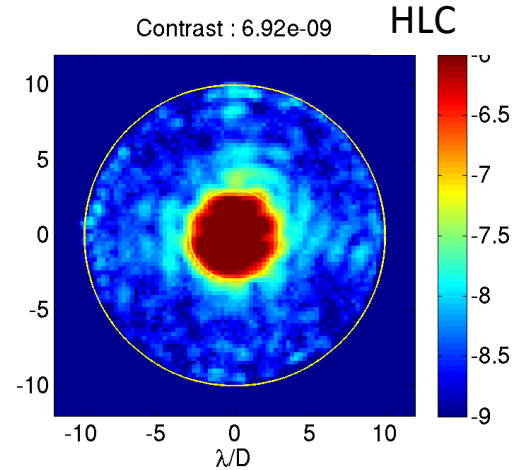
- Successfully met  $<10^{-8}$  narrowband raw contrast
- Started broadband nulling

- **SPC (Shaped-pupil coronagraph)**

- Successfully produced two-sided dark holes (2% bandwidth) using 2 DMs

- **PIAA/CMC (backup): Focal plane mask fabricated.**

- Recent designs show improved IWA performance



PIAACMC mask  
(atomic force microscope images)

F. Zhao



# Exoplanet Missions



Hubble

Spitzer

Kepler

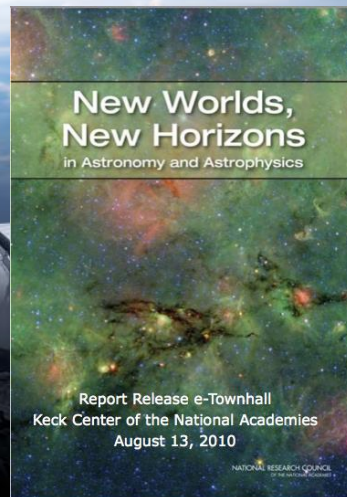
TESS

JWST

WFIRST /  
AFTA

New Worlds  
Telescope

Habitable Exoplanet Imager  
HabEx, LUV/O/IR



What Exoplanet Direct Imaging missions are possible for Probe-Scale (\$1B)?

# Probe-Scale studies

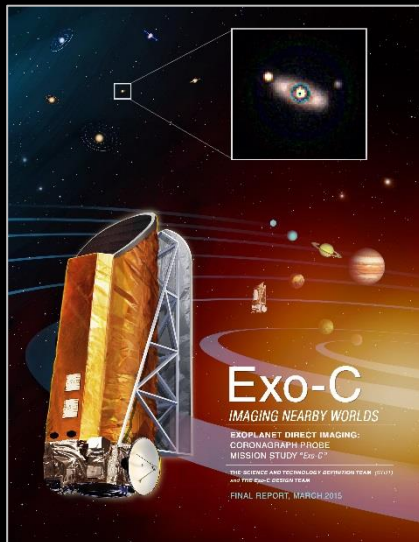
## High-Contrast Imaging

### Purpose

- Establish science value for a medium-size exoplanet mission
- Motivate technology investments
- Candidates for next Decadal Survey

### Ground rules:

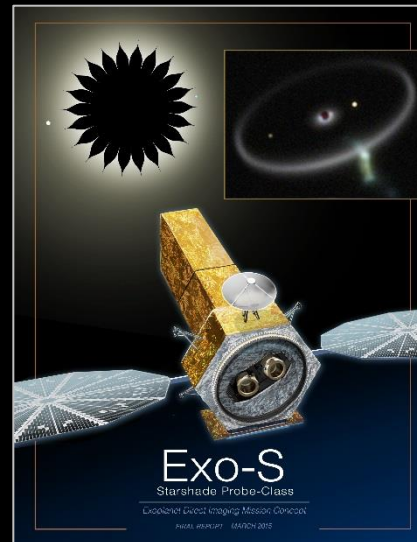
- Compelling Science beyond ground capability at time of mission
- Feasibility: TRL 5 by end of Phase A, TRL 6 by end of Phase B
- \$1B LCC confirmed by Aerospace CATE
- Launch 2024



### Exo-C:

Internal Occulter  
(Coronagraph)

K. Stapelfeldt,  
STDT Chair, GSFC



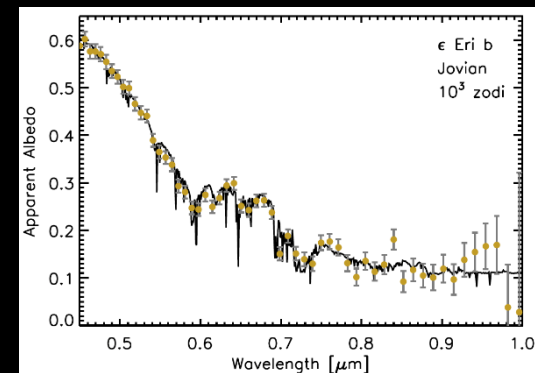
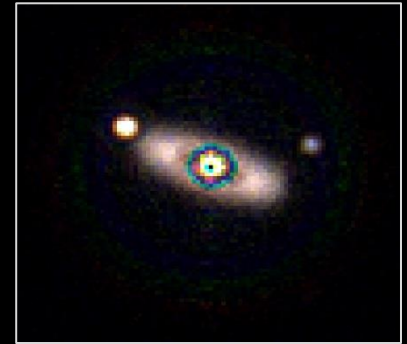
### Exo-S:

External Occulter  
(Starshade)

S. Seager,  
STDT Chair, MIT

# Exo-C: Internal Coronagraph

- Visible Hybrid Lyot Coronagraph mask
- Design Reference Mission observes > 400 unique targets
  - Spectra or colors for ~30 planets
  - Access to a few super-Earths in HZ of their stars
- 1.4m aperture
- Cost: \$1B life-cycle, validated by Aerospace CATE
- 3 year mission, Earth trailing orbit
- Exo-C's scope, hardware, and expected cost are very similar to those of NASA's *Kepler* mission
- A modest aperture can be very effective if coronagraphy requirements allowed to drive the mission and telescope design



RV planet spectrum - ε Eridani



# Exo-S Mission Concepts

## Dedicated (Co-Launched) Mission

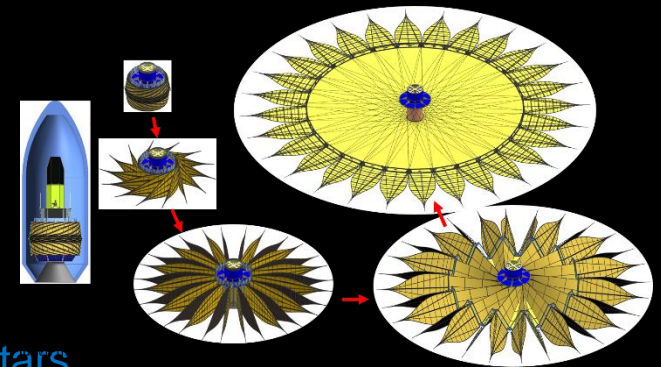
- Telescope: 1.1 m
- Retargeting: by the telescope s/c (SEP)
- \$1.1B lifecycle cost

## Rendezvous Mission

- Telescope: WFIRST/AFTA 2.4 m is adopted
- Orbit: Earth-Sun L2
- Retargeting: by the starshade spacecraft
- Minimal impact to telescope to be “starshade ready”
- \$0.6B lifecycle cost

## Common to both:

- Starshade design (30 m vs. 34 m diameter)
- Formation-flying over ~35,000 km separation
- 3 Year Mission
- Science:
  - Spectra or colors for ~30 planets.
  - [Access to several exo-Earths in HZ of their stars](#)





# Introducing new Exoplanet Exploration Program Office Members

Program Chief Technologist

Dr. Nicholas Siegler

Program Business Manager

Mr. Ramon Lemus

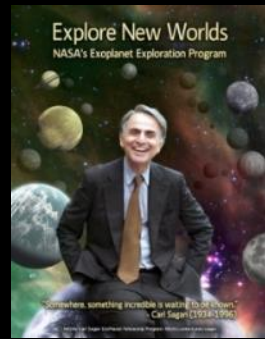
Coronagraph Technologist

Dr. Rhonda Morgan

TDEM Engineer

Mr. David Breda

# Sagan Fellows – Class of 2015



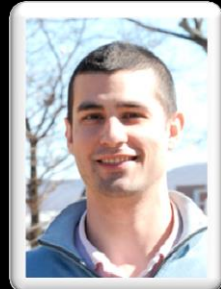
Courtney Dressing, **Caltech**  
*Characterizing Small Planets Orbiting Small Stars*



Daniel Foreman-Mackey, **University of Washington**  
*Flexible and Robust Inference of the Exoplanet Population*



Jonathan Gagne, **Carnegie Institute for Science**  
*Locating the Young, Isolated Planetary-Mass Objects in the Solar Neighborhood*



Paul Robertson, **Pennsylvania State University**  
*Spotting Blue Planets Around Spotted Red Stars: Removing Stellar Activity from Radial Velocities of M Dwarf Stars*



Ty Robinson, **University of California, Santa Cruz**  
*Bridging the Theory Gap: Developing a Novel Cloud Model for Exoplanets*



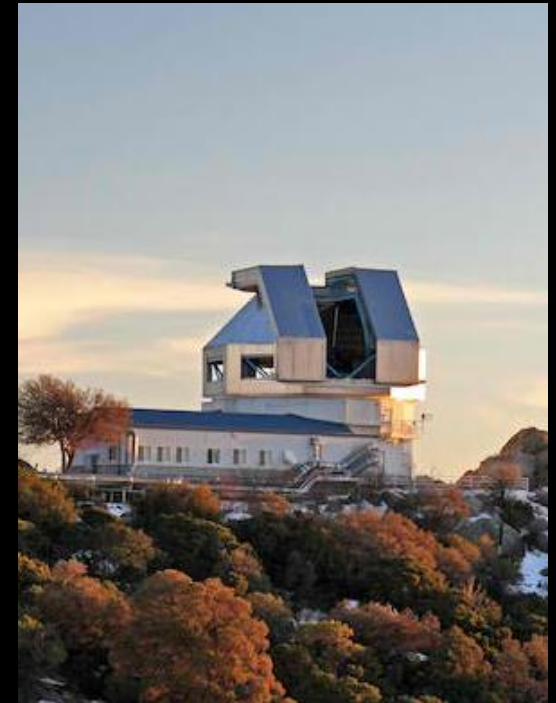
Leslie Rogers, **University of California, Berkeley**  
*Searching for Water in Distant Worlds*

2015 Sagan Workshop, "Exoplanet System Demographics: Theory and Observations", Caltech, July 26–31.

# NASA/NSF Partnership for Exoplanet Research

## Extreme Precision Doppler Spectrometer

- Scope:
  - Exoplanet-targeted Guest Observer program with existing instrumentation on WIYN using NOAO share (40%) of telescope time
  - Solicitation for facility-class extreme precision radial velocity spectrometer for WIYN telescope (commissioning goal: 2018)
- Motivation
  - Follow-up of current missions (K2, TESS, JWST)
  - Pathfinder observations inform design/operation of future missions
- Anticipated Timeline:
  - June 2015: Selection of study team(s)
  - July 2015: Begin 6-month concept phase



3.5m WIYN Telescope  
Kitt Peak National Observatory  
Arizona

# Looking Ahead: Program Activities

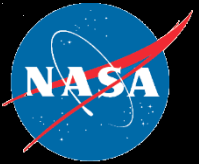
- Consistent Analysis of Exoplanet Yields for WFIRST, Probes (Traub, this afternoon)
- Exoplanet yield tool development to support both HabEx and LUVOIR studies
- CY15: Probe Extended Studies
- Exoplanets 20/20: celebration of anniversary
- Answering question of Starshade technology readiness for flight (TR6,7):
  - Starshade Readiness Working Group
  - Charter in development for APD DD approval



# Decadal Large Mission Studies for Exoplanets

(Stating Program's position. PAGs to recommend, APD DD to decide)

- The Exoplanet Program advocates for the exoplanet science (and technology investments) on both the Habitable Exoplanet Imager (HabEx) and the Large UV/Optical/IR Surveyor (LUVOIR)
- ExEP advocates study of these missions so Decadal Survey can make an informed prioritization in the name of the community
- Suggested criteria for successful reports:
  - **Compelling, Feasible, Affordable, Timely** (FACTs)
  - LUVOIR
    - Both Habitable Exoplanets and General Astrophysics as co-primary drivers
    - Compelling science guides the cost and necessary investments
  - HabEx:
    - Habitable Planet spectroscopy is primary science, plus general astrophysics
    - Astrophysics decadal budgets guide the compelling science
- The Exoplanet Program recommends that both the HabEx and LUVOIR concepts be matured
- The Exoplanet Program plans an Exoplanet Working Group (eXWG) to support both HabEx and LUVOIR mission studies: common tools, assumptions, figures of merit, technology evaluation and advocacy



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

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- Work also carried out by
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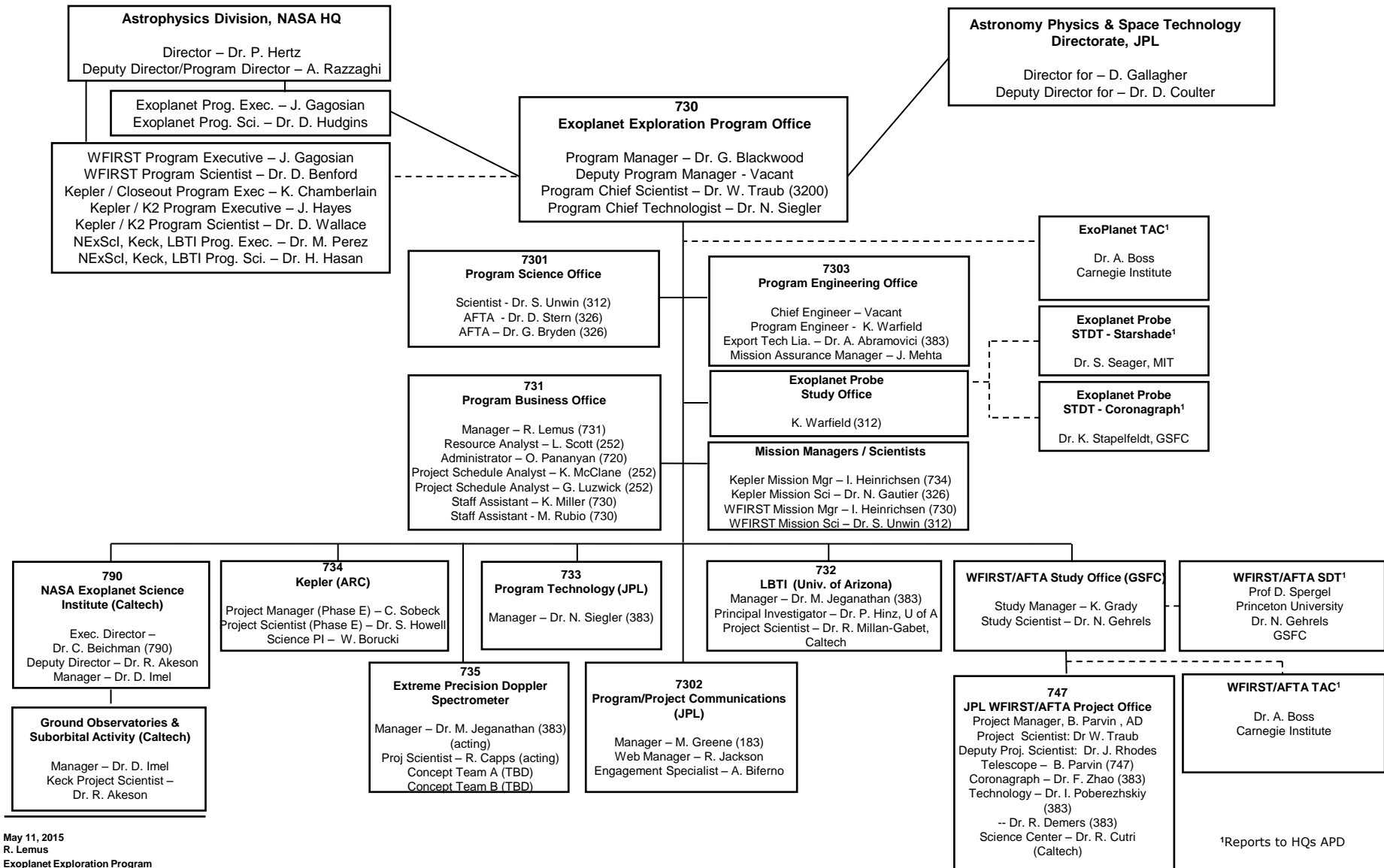


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California Institute of Technology

# Exoplanet Exploration Program Organization Chart



ExoPlanet Exploration Program



May 11, 2015  
R. Lemus  
Exoplanet Exploration Program





# Coronagraph Key Milestones



MS #	Milestone	Date
1	First-generation reflective Shaped Pupil apodizing mask has been fabricated with black silicon specular reflectivity of less than $10^{-3}$ and 20 $\mu\text{m}$ pixel size.	7/21/14
2	Shaped Pupil Coronagraph in the High Contrast Imaging Testbed demonstrates $10^{-8}$ raw contrast with narrowband light at 550 nm in a static environment.	9/30/14
3	First-generation PIAACMC focal plane phase mask with at least 12 concentric rings has been fabricated and characterized; results are consistent with model predictions of $10^{-8}$ raw contrast with 10% broadband light centered at 550 nm.	12/15/14
4	Hybrid Lyot Coronagraph in the High Contrast Imaging Testbed demonstrates $10^{-8}$ raw contrast with narrowband light at 550 nm in a static environment.	2/28/15
5	Occulting Mask Coronagraph in the High Contrast Imaging Testbed demonstrates $10^{-8}$ raw contrast with 10% broadband light centered at 550 nm in a static environment.	9/15/15
6	Low Order Wavefront Sensing and Control subsystem provides pointing jitter sensing better than 0.4 mas and meets pointing and low order wavefront drift control requirements.	9/30/15
7	Spectrograph detector and read-out electronics are demonstrated to have dark current less than 0.001 e/pix/s and read noise less than 1 e/pix/frame.	8/25/16
8	PIAACMC coronagraph in the High Contrast Imaging Testbed demonstrates $10^{-8}$ raw contrast with 10% broadband light centered at 550 nm in a static environment; contrast sensitivity to pointing and focus is characterized.	9/30/16
9	Occulting Mask Coronagraph in the High Contrast Imaging Testbed demonstrates $10^{-8}$ raw contrast with 10% broadband light centered at 550 nm in a simulated dynamic environment.	9/30/16



**WFIRST**  
WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE  
ASTROPHYSICS • DARK ENERGY • EXOPLANETS

# WFIRST-AFTA Detector Technology Milestones

MS #	Milestone	Milestone Date
✓ 1	Produce, test, and analyze <b>2 candidate passivation techniques</b> (PV1 and PV2) in <b><u>banded arrays</u></b> to document baseline performance, inter-pixel capacitance, and shall meet the following derived requirements: dark current less than 0.1 e-/pixel/sec, CDS noise less than 20 e-, and QE greater than 60% (over the bandpass of the WFI channel) at nominal operating temperature.	7/31/14
✓ 2	Produce, test, and analyze <b>1 additional candidate passivation technique</b> (PV3) in <b><u>banded arrays</u></b> to document baseline performance, inter-pixel capacitance, and shall meet the following derived requirements: dark current less than 0.1 e-/pixel/sec, CDS noise less than 20 e-, and QE greater than 60% (over the bandpass of the WFI channel) at nominal operating temperature.	12/30/14
3	Produce, test, and analyze <b><u>full arrays with operability &gt; 95%</u></b> and shall meet the following derived requirements: dark current less than 0.1 e-/pixel/sec, CDS noise less than 20 e-, QE greater than 60% (over the bandpass of the WFI channel) , inter-pixel capacitance $\leq 3\%$ in nearest-neighbor pixels at nominal operating temperature.	9/15/15
4	Produce, test, and analyze final selected recipe in <b><u>full arrays demonstrating a yield of &gt; 20%</u></b> with operability > 95% and shall meet the following derived requirements: dark current less than 0.1 e-/pixel/sec, CDS noise less than 20 e-, QE greater than 60% (over the bandpass of the WFI channel) , inter-pixel capacitance $\leq 3\%$ in nearest-neighbor pixels, persistence less than 0.1% of full well illumination after 150 sec at nominal operating temperature.	9/15/16
5	Complete environmental testing (vibration, radiation, thermal cycling) of one SCA sample part, as per NASA test standards.	12/1/16