

Briefing to Keck Institute for Space Studies

Applications of Asteroid Redirect Technology

**Commercial Roles and Connections** 

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# Why We Are Explorers

"More than by any other imaginative concept, the mind of man is aroused by the thought of exploring the mysteries of outer space. Through such exploration, man hopes to broaden his horizons, add to his knowledge, improve his way of living on Earth."

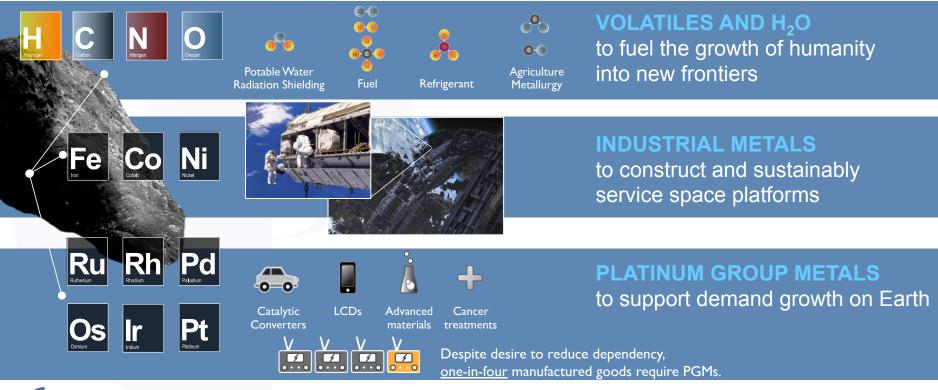
—President Dwight Eisenhower, June 20, 1958

"Fifty years after the creation of NASA, our goal is no longer just a destination to reach. Our goal is the capacity for people to work and learn and operate and live safely beyond the Earth for extended periods of time, **ultimately in ways that are more sustainable and even indefinite.** And in fulfilling this task, we will not only extend humanity's reach in space—we will strengthen America's leadership here on Earth."

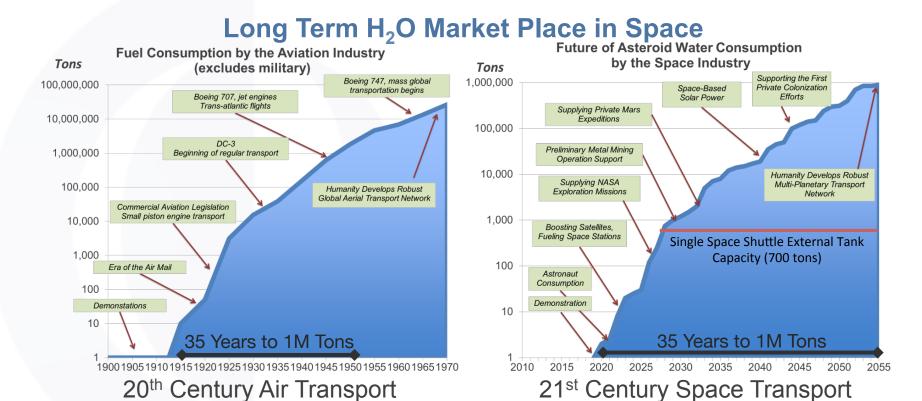
—President Barack Obama, April 15, 2010



# The Resources Near Earth in Space







Could the Wright brothers have foreseen the growth of the airline industry?



### Staged-Gate Prospecting Phases



#### Detection

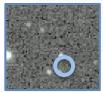


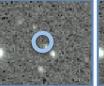
#### Remote Prospecting



### **Local Prospecting**







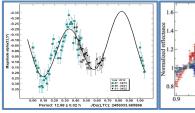


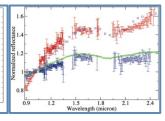
Nov 5 Nov 6 Nov 8

Point-source detection









**High Uncertainty** Location:

Composition: Unknown

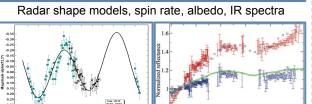
> 20m 200m

Diameter:

**Example In-Situ** Value Bounds:

\$100M - \$500B





Location: Well Defined

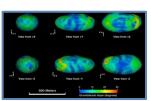
Diameter:

**Composition:** C-Class (rough classing)

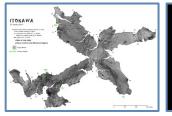
130m 190m

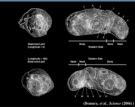
\$40B - \$500B





Terrain mapping, macroporosity, composition subclass





Location: Well Defined

**Composition:**  $C_M - 25\%$  volatiles; 15%  $H_2O$ 

171-172m

Diameter: **|←** 

\$380B - \$390B

### Challenges and Incentive Prizes

- NASA and others are evaluating Centennial and other incentives, perhaps intended to:
  - Broaden involvement beyond NASA and traditional contractors
  - Provide environment for exploration of alternative and/or nontraditional contributing solutions
  - Connect NASA with economic interests leveraging federal investment
- The last few years...
  - Lots of RFIs & workshops
  - Many "no-funds exchange Space Act Agreements"
  - More funding for CubeSats than asteroid applications



# Catalyzing commercial space development

- Provide multiple non-mission critical "supporting roles"
- Create opportunities where marginally commercial programs become economic
- Allow commercial providers to deliver a product, service or technology where they can count, in part, on NASA being an early customer
- Facilitate acquisition methods which allow working with minimal FAR and NPR 7120.5 overhead.



# Specific Areas of Opportunity – Prior to ARM

- R&D on anticipated material property characteristics and operational environments on small NEOs
  - Terrestrial, parabolic flights, orbital laboratories
- Development and demonstration of ARM technologies (current BAA)
- Precursor missions to reduce prime mission risk
  - Target identification and characterization (Sentinel)
  - Flyby and rendezvous missions to bracket mass and risk environment
  - Characterization of MANY potential candidate asteroids



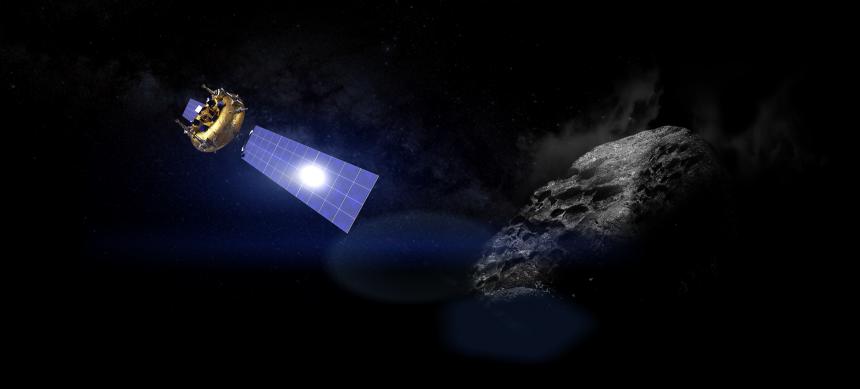
# Specific Areas of Opportunity – Post ARM

 In-situ analyses, processing and beneficiation experiments (robotically or astronaut-placed)

 Demonstrations and increasing utilization of infrastructure derived from space resources

 Follow-on missions to future targets of interest, including Mars and its moons







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