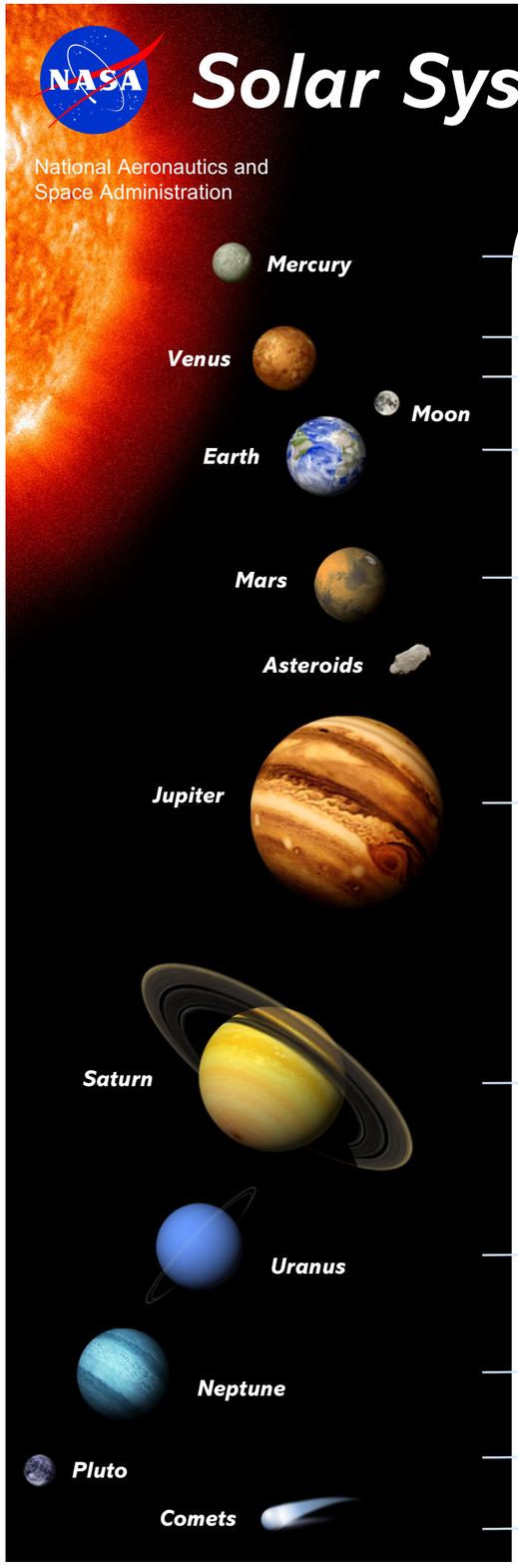
Solar System Exploration Timeline 2003-2006

Educational Product	
Teachers and Students	K - Post Doc

EP-2003-03-024-JPL

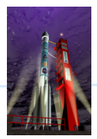
National Aeronautics and Space Administration



2003

07/03 SMART-1
Launch: Europe's Moon Orbiter

12/24/03 Mars Express/Beagle 2
Mars Landing: Beagle 2 Lands (Mars Express)



06/03 ESA Mars Express and Beagle 2
Launch

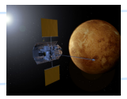
05/30/03 - 07/12/03
Mars Exploration Rovers A & B
Launch Windows

05/09/03 - 05/25/03
MUSES-C
Launch Window: Japan's MUSES-C Asteroid Sample Return

09/21/03 Galileo
Galileo Impacts Jupiter (End of Mission)

2004

03/10/04 - 03/29/04
05/12/04 - 05/23/04
MESSENGER Launch Window



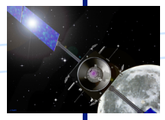
06/08/04
Venus Transits the Sun
06/24/04 MESSENGER
Venus Flyby

01/01/04 Nozomi
Mars Arrival: Japan's Nozomi

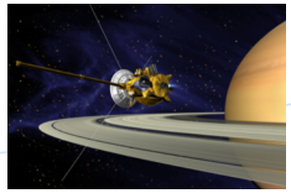
01/25/04 MER-B
Mars Landing: Mars Exploration Rover B

01/04/04 MER-A
Mars Landing: Mars Exploration Rover A

09/08/04 Genesis
Sample Return: Genesis Solar Wind Capsule Drop in Utah

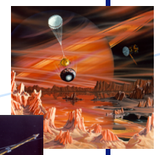


10/04 - 01/05 SMART-1
Moon Arrival Window: Europe's Moon Orbiter



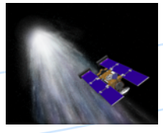
06/12/04 Cassini
Flyby: Cassini at Saturn's Phoebe

07/01/04 Cassini
Saturn Arrival: Cassini and Huygens Probe



12/24/04 Cassini
Cassini Deploys Huygens Probe

10/26/04 Cassini
Flyby: Cassini at Titan



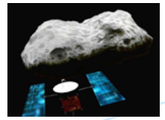
01/02/04 Stardust
Comet Encounter: Stardust Intercepts Wild 2

12/30/04 Deep Impact
Launch: Comet Excavator Deep Impact

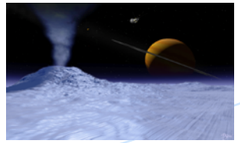
2005

11/05 Venus Express
Launch: ESA's Venus Orbiter

08/08/05 - 08/28/05
Mars Recon Orbiter
Launch Window



10/05 MUSES-C
Asteroid Arrival: Japan's MUSES-C at 1998 SF-36

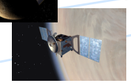


03/09/05 Cassini
Cassini Begins Extended Saturn Tour with Encedalus Flyby. Activities Continue through 2008.

07/04/05 Deep Impact
Comet Encounter: Deep Impact Excavates Tempel 1

2006

03/16/06 MESSENGER
Venus Flyby

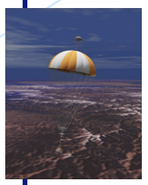


04/06
Venus Express
Venus Arrival: ESA's Venus Orbiter

03/06/06
Mars Recon Orbiter
Mars Arrival

05/26/06
Dawn
Launch: Dawn Asteroid Explorer

01/14/06 - 01/28/06
New Horizons (Pluto)
Launch Window



01/15/06 Stardust
Sample Return: Stardust Samples Descend to Earth

Extreme Exploration

Starting in January 2004, a fleet of more than a dozen spacecraft will make headlines from across the solar system. NASA plans to land two rovers on Mars, probe the rings and moons of Saturn, fly through the tail of a comet and return tiny fragments of the Sun to Earth. Then we're off to Mercury and the asteroid belt. NASA is also preparing a spacecraft for our first close-up look at Pluto and beyond.

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