Apr 27th, 8:00 AM

Panel Session I - The Future of Space Exploration

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A Nation of Explorers
It's about destiny, not destination

Lifts the national spirit
- The spirit of discovery - a part of the fabric of our nation
- In every field of human endeavor, leaders do what others regard as impossible
- Pushing the limits of human understanding - our origins, life beyond Earth, human survival on other worlds

Improves the quality of life on Earth
- Space exploration delivers enormous benefits - advances in medicine, weather forecasting, communications, computers, materials, etc...
- Space exploration has led to unprecedented advances in public safety and environmental, economic, and national security
- The next phase of exploration will have even more of an impact - driving breakthroughs in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology

Inspires future generations
- Exploration of the solar system and beyond will be guided by compelling questions of scientific and societal importance
- Exploration requires the best ideas, talents, and skills of our nation
- Inspires our youth to challenging pursuits; allowing them to boldly dream
- Lifts our capabilities as a nation to new heights

One Step at a Time
It is affordable and sustainable
- Paced by experience, technology readiness and flexibility
- Establish Stepping Stones - the right destinations, in the right order, at the right time
- Develop Building Blocks - technology to enable each successive step
- Employ New Approaches - spiral development - build and test
- Fiscal Management - smart decisions to prioritize internal programs and be an informed buyer

It is focused and achievable
- Responds to the nation's call for a long term space vision
- We have an integrated agency approach
- We have the talent, experience and leadership - recent successes and demonstrated management reforms
- We have the passion and commitment to succeed

NASA's Next Steps
Systems
- Build spaceships to send robotic and human explorers into deep space
- Protect astronauts from the hazards of space flight and sustain human life on other worlds
- Design and build safe and efficient power and propulsion
- Optimize human and robotic partnerships in both engineering and science

Workforce and facilities
- Create the right skill mix
- Attract and train the workforce - inspire, engage, and educate a diverse next generation of explorers
- Assure critical capabilities and institutional capacity

Partnerships
- Expand cooperation with government agencies
- Leverage industry and academia capabilities
- Identify innovative opportunities for commercial participation
- Engage other nations to further exploration goals

**“Let us continue the Journey...”** George W. Bush January 14, 2004
ONE STEPPING STONE AT A TIME.