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

Realizing the Future
Earth, Moon, Mars, and Beyond

- Foster and sustain the exploration culture across generation
  - Compelling missions that continually open new frontiers
  - A shared journey, inspiring present and future generations
  - A constant impetus to educate and train the workforce to realize these bold exploration goals

- Identify, develop, and apply advanced technologies to...
  - Travel to distant worlds
  - Enable exploration and discovery
  - Encompass humans and robots in pursuit of compelling destinations
  - Involve the public in the excitement of exploration and discoveries
  - Translate the benefits of these technologies to improve life on Earth

- Harness the brain power
  - Engage the nation's science and engineering talent
  - Motivate successive generations of students to pursue science, math, engineering and technology
  - Create the tools to facilitate broad national technical participation

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
  - 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.