



Explorers Program Overview



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Pre-Proposal Conference
November 23, 2010



The Explorers Program (1)

- ◆ **NASA's oldest continuous program**
 - Over 100 successful missions since 1958
 - 15 successful launches in the last 10 years
 - Numerous scientific and Principal Investigator (PI) individual awards
 - ❖ 2006 Nobel Prize for Physics
 - ◆ **Program objective – Frequent flight opportunities for world-class scientific investigations**
 - ◆ **Uncoupled program of missions with unique science capabilities supporting heliophysics and astrophysics science goals**
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The Explorers Program (2)

- ◆ **Mission class characterized by size, schedule, and budget cost caps**
 - ◆ MIDEX
 - ◆ EX
 - ◆ SMEX
 - ◆ UNEX
 - ◆ Missions of Opportunity

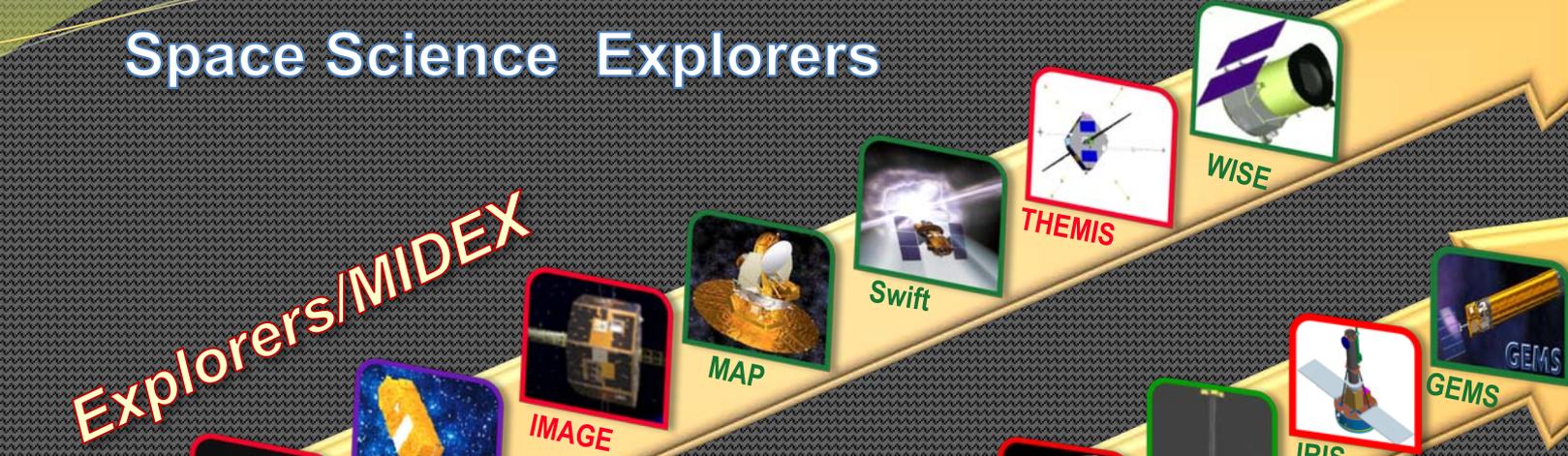
 - ◆ **Missions solicited through Announcements of Opportunity**

 - ◆ **Missions developed in Principal Investigator mode**

 - ◆ **Program Management oversight provided by the Explorers Program (GSFC)**
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Space Science Explorers

Explorers/MIDEX



SMEX



UNEX & Missions of Opportunity and Internationals



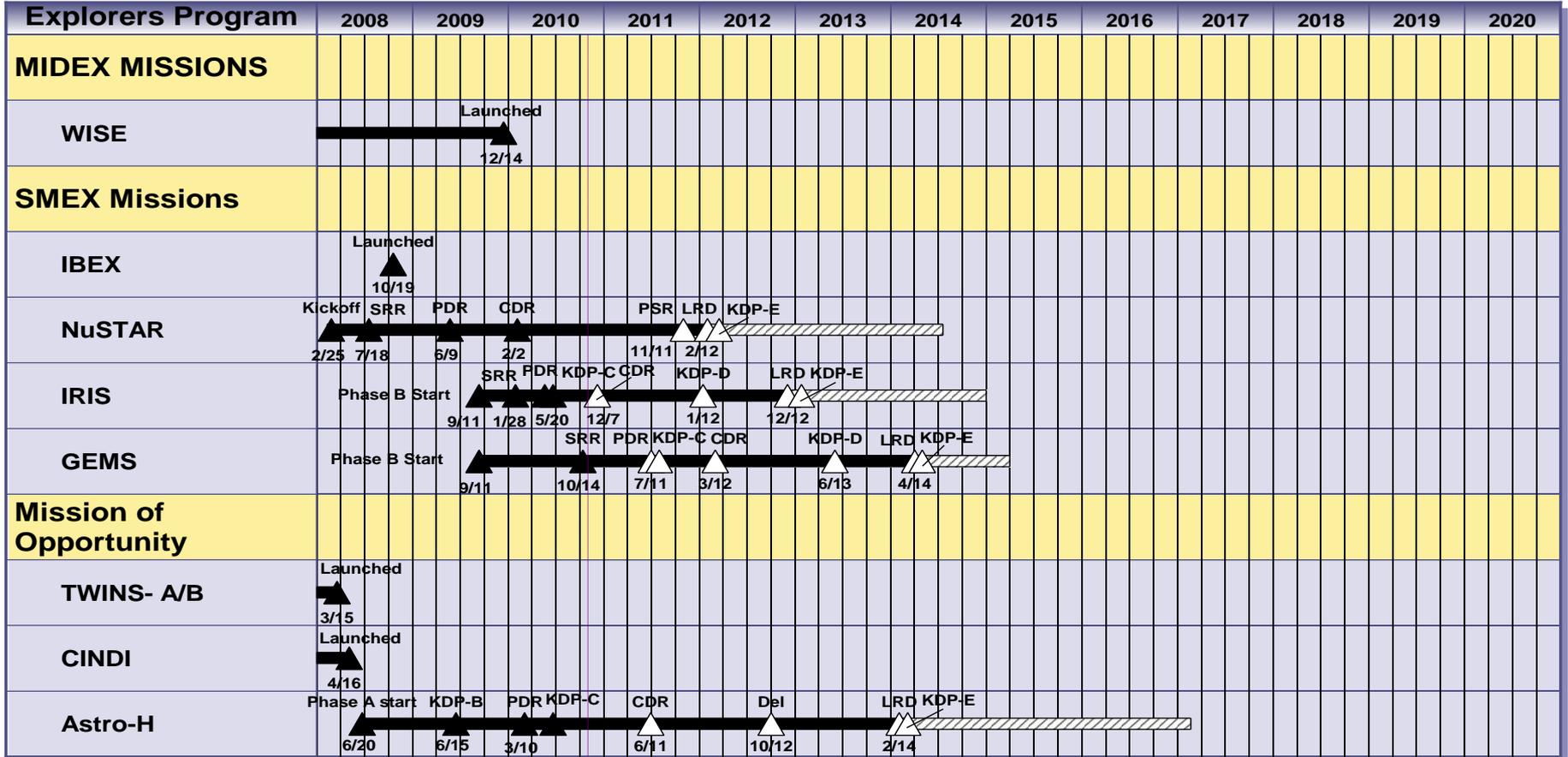
Supporting Heliophysics & Physics & Astronomy



Explorers Program Master Schedule

CY

10/31/10



Development

Prime Mission



Developmental Roles & Responsibilities Summary

◆ NASA responsibility

- Program administration
- Moderate insight / oversight
- “Traditional” review process/Terms of Reference (ToR)
- “Project Plan,” approval (at Confirmation)
 - ❖ Reviewed for thoroughness, but PI responsible for content choices
- Technical Authority, Center approval for launch readiness

◆ PI responsibility

- Mission implementation (approach & execution)
 - Performance/Cost/Schedule/Risk management
 - Level 1 Science Requirements/Design Concept
 - Peer reviews
 - Mission assurance
 - ❖ Industry standards, practice, and accountability
 - ❖ Industry practices-upon review and approval
 - ❖ PAIP – Product Assurance Implementation Plan
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