

Program/Mission Lines

Mission Lines	Mission Class*	Objectives and Features	Example Missions
Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP)	Competed, PI-led small missions	Address focused Earth science objectives and provide opportunities for new science investigations.	OCO, Aquarius
Earth Science Systematic Missions	Strategic missions of all sizes	Make new global measurements to address unanswered questions and reduce remaining uncertainties with systematic missions that maintain continuity of key measurements awaiting transition to operational systems managed by other agencies.	NPP, LDCM, OSTM, Glory, GPM
Discovery	Competed, PI-led medium missions	Explore solar system bodies and/or remotely examine the solar system and extrasolar planetary system environments.	Dawn, Kepler
Mars Scout	Competed, PI-led medium missions	Provide regular opportunities for innovative research in support of Mars objectives.	Phoenix
New Frontiers	Competed, PI-led large missions	Explore the solar system with frequent missions that will conduct high-quality, focused scientific investigations designed to enhance our understanding of the solar system.	Juno
Mars Exploration (core)	Strategic medium and large missions	Maximize the scientific return, technology infusion, and public engagement of the robotic exploration of the Red Planet. Each strategic mission has linkages to previous missions and orbiters and landers support each other's operations.	MSL, MSO
Explorers	Competed, PI-led small missions	Provide flight opportunities for focused scientific investigations from space with the Heliophysics and Astrophysics science areas.	WISE, IBEX
Solar Terrestrial Probes (STP)	Strategic medium missions	Execute a continuous sequence of defined strategic projects to provide in-situ and remote sensing observations, from multiple platforms, for the sustained study of the Sun-Earth System.	MMS, GEC
Living With a Star (LWS)	Strategic medium to large missions	Strategic sequences of missions to resolve the highest-priority unknowns in the connected system from the Sun to the Earth.	SDO, RBSP, ITSP, IHS, Solar Orbiter, Solar Probe
Beyond Einstein	Strategic medium and large missions	Complete Einstein's legacy and lead to understanding the underlying physics of the very phenomena that came out of his theories.	Con-X, LISA, JDEM, BHFP, IP
Navigator	Strategic large missions	Interrelated missions to explore and characterize new worlds, enable advanced telescope searches for Earth-like planets, and discover habitable environments around neighboring stars.	SIM, TPF

* Small missions have life cycle costs less than approximately \$300M. Mid-size missions have life cycle costs between approximately \$300M and \$750M. Large missions have life cycle costs in excess of \$750M. Flagship missions, in contrast to Mission Lines, are individual strategic missions and are in excess of \$1 billion.