

NASA Vision

April 2002



The World has Changed

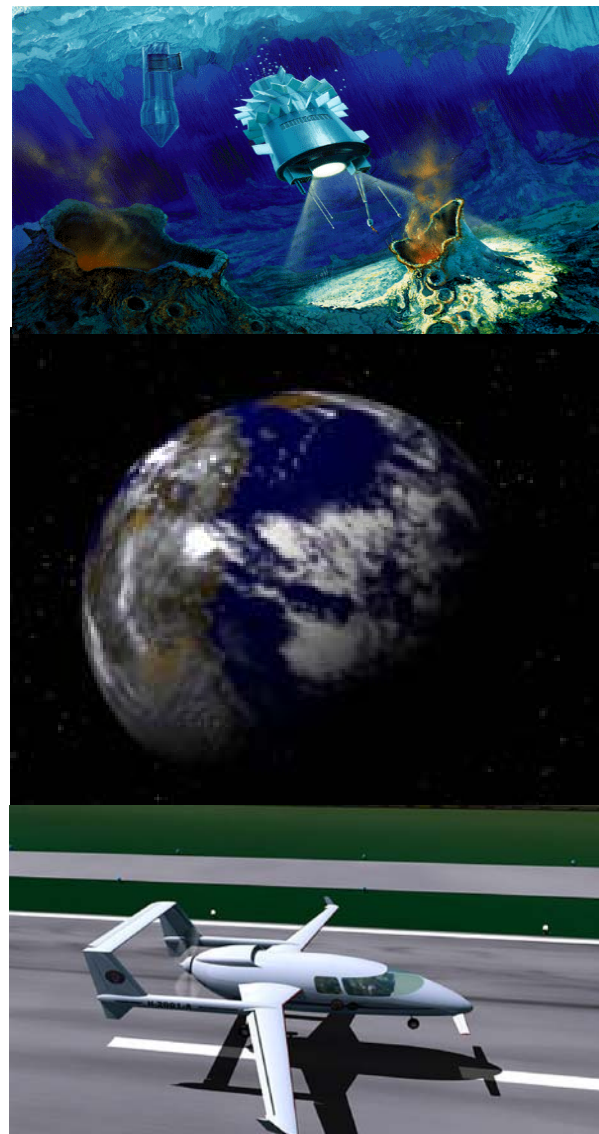
- The Nation faces extraordinary challenges; the Agency has tremendous opportunities
- International terrorism has crossed our borders
- Global climate change may threaten our way of life
- Shortages in U.S. scientists and engineers threaten our economy
- Rapid advances in technology are profoundly affecting business conduct and survival
- Life is pervasive; we believe it must exist beyond our planet

To continue to serve the Nation well, *NASA must change.*



When the History of the First Quarter of the 21st Century is Written...

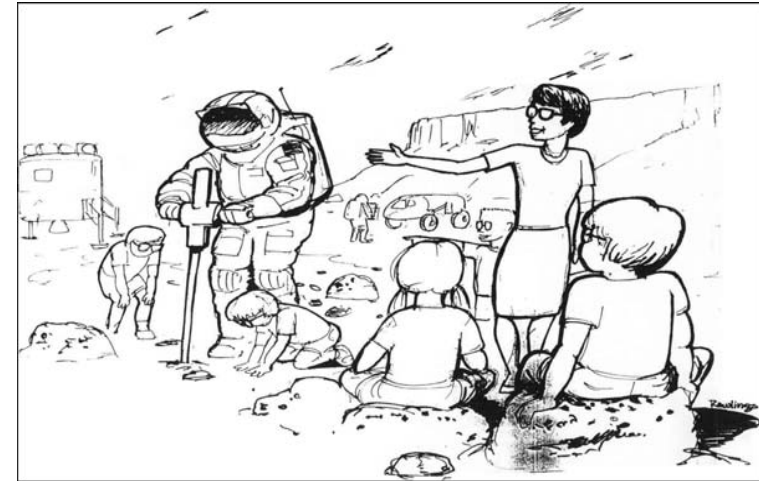
- **We have sought life's abodes:** NASA missions have mapped continents on dozens of planets circling nearby stars, some of which show signs of life-supporting atmospheres. Evidence continues to mount for the existence of life on planets within our own Solar System, as revealed by advanced generations of robotic explorers. Humans and their robotic partners assembled complex science facilities in space to unveil even more challenging cosmic questions.
- **We understand our home:** NASA's missions revealed the complex interactions among the Earth's major systems, vastly improving weather, climate, earthquake, and volcanic eruption forecasting – and the impact that our Sun has on our living world.
- **We have connected the world's citizens:** NASA's technologies have resulted in dramatic improvements in air transportation via “green” aircraft, higher-speed international travel, and innovative capabilities to reduce aircraft accidents and delays.



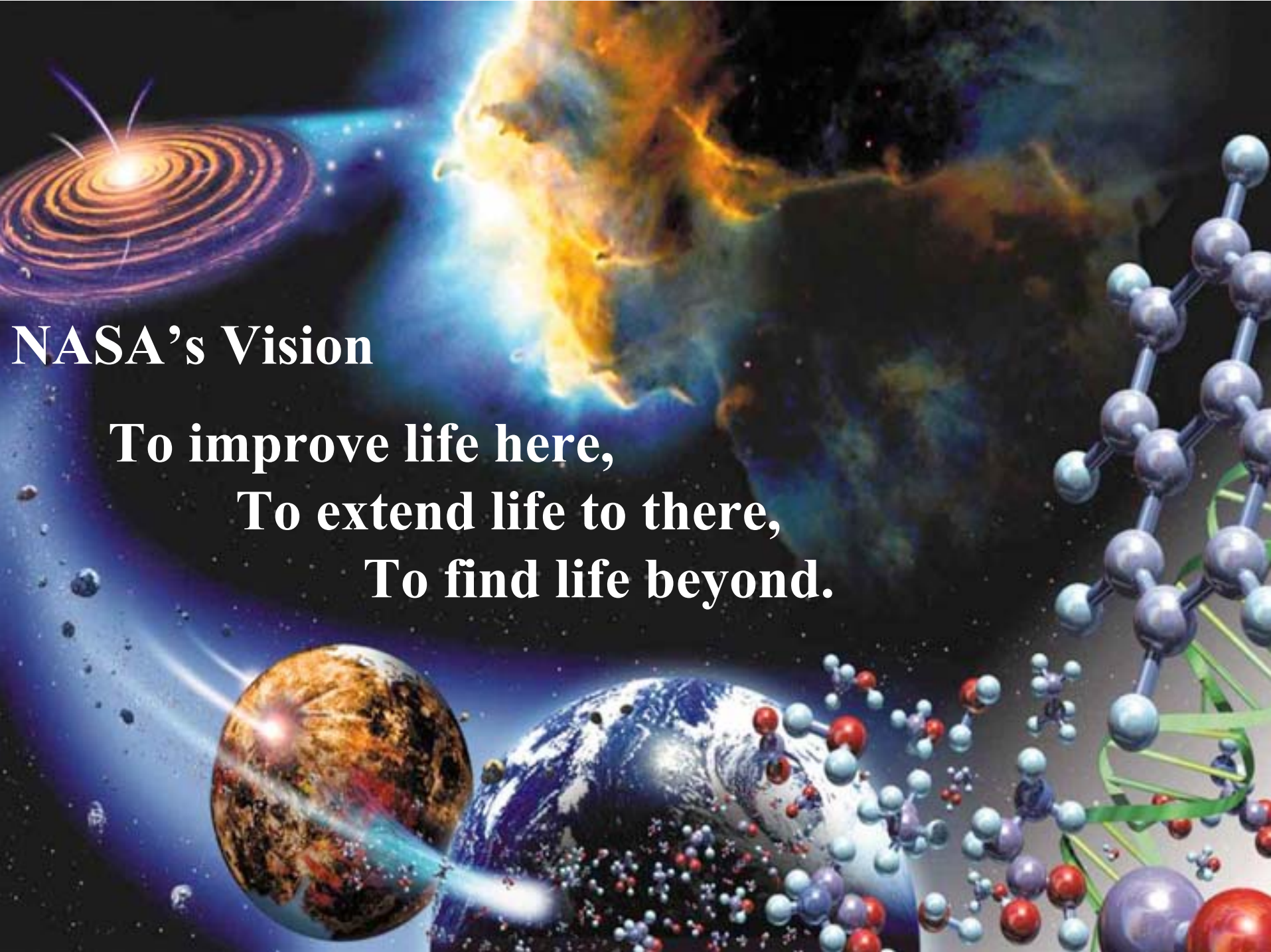


When the History of the First Quarter of the 21st Century is Written...

- **We have enabled new commerce:** Low Earth Orbit has become a rapid-growth economic zone, with commercial industries taking advantage of low-gravity, abundant solar energy, low-cost access from the Earth's surface, and a vista that encompasses the entire planet.
- **We share the vision and the experience:** Throughout the world, students in earthbound classrooms are learning the fundamentals of physics, math, and technology as they actively participate with space travelers via “telepresence technology.”



And we continue to prepare the way for humanity's greatest adventures.



NASA's Vision

**To improve life here,
To extend life to there,
To find life beyond.**



The NASA Mission

To understand and protect our home planet

To explore the Universe and search for life

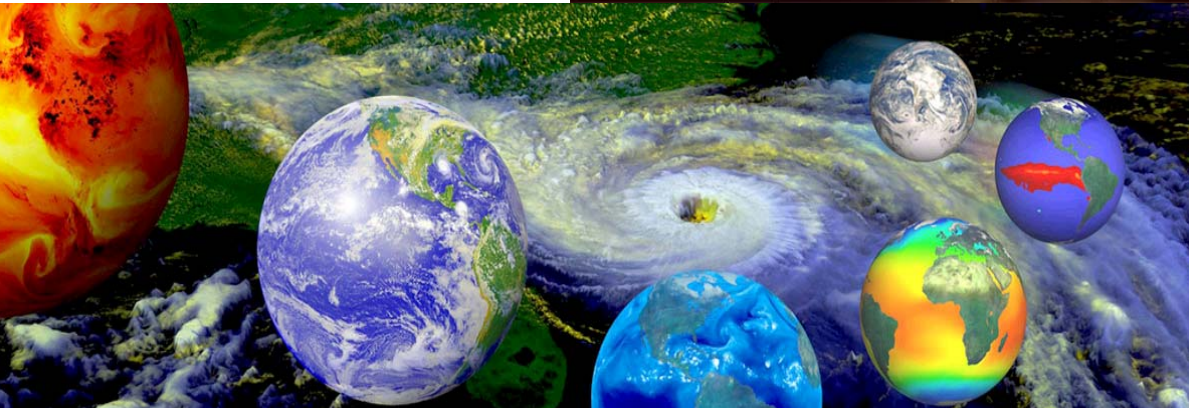
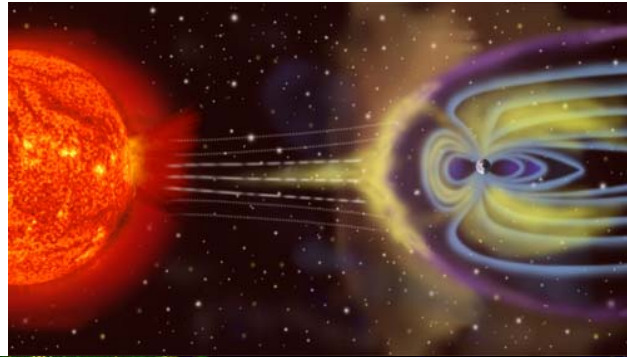
To inspire the next generation of explorers

...as only NASA can.



To Understand and Protect Our Home Planet

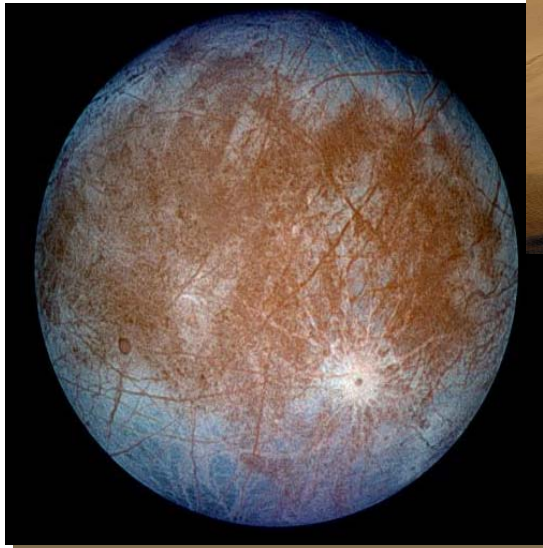
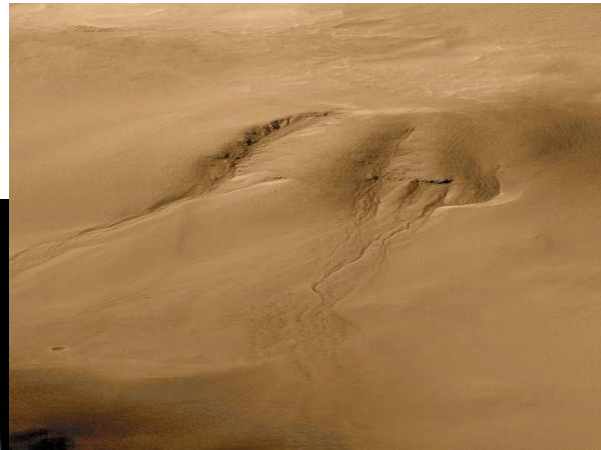
- Understanding the Earth's system and its response to natural and human-induced changes
- Enabling a safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally friendly air transportation system
- Investing in technologies and collaborating with others to improve the quality of life and to create a more secure world





To Explore the Universe and Search for Life

- Exploring the Universe and the life within it... enabled by technology, first with robotic trailblazers, and eventually humans... as driven by these compelling scientific questions:
 - How did we get here?
 - Where are we going?
 - Are we alone?





To Inspire the Next Generation of Explorers

- Motivating students to pursue careers in science, math, and engineering
- Providing educators with unique teaching tools and compelling teaching experiences
- Improving our Nation's scientific literacy
- Engaging the public in shaping and sharing the experience of exploration and discovery





Implications for NASA: What is Different?

To Understand and Protect our Home Planet

- Greater emphasis on providing policy-makers and others with timely information, technology, and useful tools that address priority issues of international importance
- A new spirit of cooperation with the national security community
- Greater emphasis on transferring technologies to others

To Explore the Universe and Search for Life

- Decisions are science-driven; not destination-driven
- Human presence beyond low Earth orbit will be enabled – as a means to scientific exploration, not an end in itself
- Investments are justified by their contribution to the long-range vision

To Inspire the Next Generation of Explorers

- Education is part of our core mission
- Education becomes an integral part of our programs
- More citizens and students will participate in our programs

As Only NASA Can

- We will pursue activities unique to our mission in air and space: if NASA did not do them, they would not get done
- Activities will be integrated across the Agency
- Programmatic and budget decisions will be aligned with our mission statement
- We will carry out our mission as a diverse, unified team
- We will use new technologies to move our physical infrastructure beyond brick and mortar, and to leverage the Nation's industrial and intellectual capital



What Does America Gain from NASA?

- A new generation of leaders and explorers ready to expand the frontiers of air and space
- Pioneering technological and scientific research that enables new industries
- A Nation reaching across borders to unite people
- A deeper understanding of life, ourselves, and the universe

