Solar System Exploration Timeline 2003 - 2006

Educational Product	
Teachers and Students	K - Post Doc

EP-2003-03-024-JPL

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Mercury
Venus
Moon
Earth
Mars
Asteroids
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune
Pluto
Comets

2003

09/27/03
SMART-1
Launch:
Europe's First
Moon Orbiter

12/24/03
Mars Express/Beagle 2
Mars Arrival & Landing

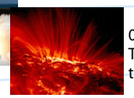
06/02/03
Mars Express/Beagle 2
06/10/03 Spirit
07/07/03 Opportunity
Mars Launches

05/09/03
Hayabusa (MUSES-C)
Launch: Japanese
Asteroid Sample Return

09/21/03 Galileo
Jupiter Impact:
End of 14-year
Orbiter Mission

2004

05/04
MESSENGER
Launch: NASA Mercury Orbiter



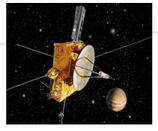
06/08/04
Transit: Venus Crosses
the Face of the Sun

11/04 MESSENGER
Venus Flyby 1

08/04
LUNAR-A
Launch: Japanese
Moon Orbiter

09/08/04 Genesis
Sample Return:
Mid-Air Capture of
Solar Wind Capsule

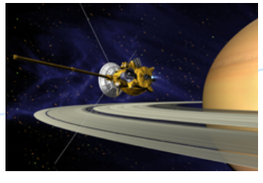
01/03/04 Spirit
01/24/04 Opportunity
Twin NASA Robot Geologists
Land on Mars



02/04 Ulysses
Jupiter Flyby

12/24/04 Cassini-Huygens
NASA Orbiter Deploys
European Probe

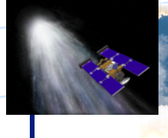
06/12/04 Cassini-Huygens
Moon Flyby: NASA Orbiter at
Saturn's Phoebe



10/26/04
Cassini-Huygens
Titan Flyby

07/01/04 Cassini-Huygens
Saturn Arrival:
NASA Orbiter & European Probe

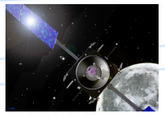
01/02/04 Stardust
Comet Encounter:
NASA Collects Samples
from Comet Wild 2



02/04 Rosetta
Launch: European
Comet Chaser

12/04 Deep Impact
Launch: NASA Comet Excavator

2005



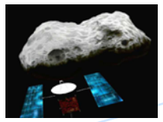
02/05 SMART-1
Moon Arrival:
Europe's First
Lunar Orbiter

8/05
MESSENGER
Venus Flyby 2

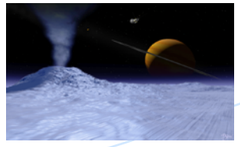
08/05
SELENE
Launch:
Japanese
Lunar
Probe

11/05
Venus
Express
Launch:
European
Orbiter

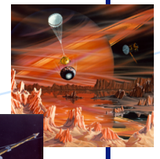
08/05
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter
Launch



10/05 Hayabusa (MUSES-C)
Asteroid Arrival:
Japan Collects Samples
From Itokawa



03/09/05 Cassini
NASA Orbiter Begins Extended
Saturn Tour with Enceladus
Flyby. Activities Continue
Through 2008.



01/14/05 Huygens
Probe Descent:
Huygens Explores
Titan (3 hours)

07/04/05 Deep Impact
Comet Encounter:
NASA Excavates
Tempel 1

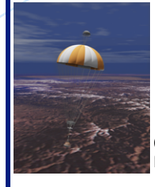
2006

04/06
Venus Express
Venus Arrival:
European Orbiter

03/06
Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter
Mars Arrival

05/06
Dawn
Launch:
NASA
Asteroid
Orbiter

01/06
New Horizons
Launch: NASA
Pluto-Kuiper Belt
Flyby



01/06 Stardust
NASA Comet Sample Return

Extreme Exploration

Starting in January 2004, a fleet of more than a dozen international spacecraft will make headlines from across the solar system. NASA plans to land two rovers on Mars, probe the rings and moons of Saturn, fly through the tail of a comet and return tiny fragments of the Sun to Earth. Then we're off to Mercury and the asteroid belt. NASA is also preparing a spacecraft for our first close-up look at Pluto and beyond.

For the whole story, visit: http://solarsystem.nasa.gov

ssetl_v10 - Last Updated: 12/10/03 JPL 400-1075