

A vibrant cosmic background image showing a nebula with glowing orange, yellow, and blue clouds of gas and dust, set against a dark space filled with distant stars.

Update to the NASA Astrophysics Implementation Plan

Astrophysics

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Background:

- In December 2012 the Astrophysics Division issued an *Astrophysics Implementation Plan* describing how the recommendations of the 2010 Decadal Survey were to be realized within the constrained fiscal landscape.
- Several programmatic and budgetary changes and new events occurred since then.
- In Spring/Summer 2014 the Division started developing an Update to the Plan to reflect these changes.
- The Update is intended to be a supplement to the 2012 Plan. The 2012 Plan itself is not being revised.
- The Update will be issued in December 2014.

This Update provides a summary of events and developments since the publication of the *Astrophysics Implementation Plan* in December 2012 that affect NASA's strategy for implementing the 2010 Astrophysics Decadal Survey, *New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

Summary of updates since 2012

- The James Webb Space Telescope is on schedule & within budget for a launch in October 2018.
- Preformulation and technology development for WFIRST/AFTA well underway with support from both the Administration and the Congress.
- Explorers:
 - Downselection of NICER and TESS in April 2013.
 - NICER confirmed in February 2014 for launch in 2016.
 - TESS confirmed in October 2014 for launch in 2017.
 - Released AO for a SMEX and a MO in September 2014.
- Partnering with ESA to advance Decadal Survey priorities.
 - Joined ESA's Euclid in 2013 with US contribution to launch in 2020.
 - Ongoing negotiations with ESA to provide US contribution to Athena, the X-ray observatory to launch in 2028 addressing some of the IXO science.
 - Supporting ESA in studying an ESA-led gravitational wave observatory to launch NET than 2034.
- Strategic technology development underway for exoplanet, CMB, UV/Vis, and other decadal survey driven areas.
- Senior Review conducted in 2014 and missions extended in response.

Timeline:

October 27	AIP Update distributed to CAA members
November 3-4	Presentation to the CAA
November 7	AIP Update distributed to APS members
November 14	Presentation to the APS
December 15	Public release of the AIP Update
January 2015	Presentation to the community at the NASA Town Hall during AAS meeting in Seattle

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