

Overview of Recent CAPS Meetings

An assessment by

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SSB Meeting November 3, 2015

Planetary Science Status:

1. Overall, the Planetary Science Division is in a good state
 - Mars 2020 sample caching mission continues on track
 - Europa mission is formally a NASA Project in formulation.
 - Five Discovery mission concepts selected for Phase A studies
 - Next New Frontiers mission AO is planned for next year
 - R & A funding remains stable
2. Primary concern is regarding potential changes to the Europa mission
 - The mission as currently designed (“Multiple Europa Flyby Mission”) is highly responsive to the Decadal Survey in science and cost (~\$2B)
 - Key Europa science questions are very well addressed, instruments have been selected, mission design is mature
 - Changes being considered to include landed element and possible SLS launch may cause significant cost, complexity, risk, and schedule growth

Astrobiology Status

- **Astrobiology Strategy (Michael New)**
 - Road map finalized. Hard copies available before 2016
 - Issues with possible CAPS review.
- **NAI (NASA Astrobiology Institute) Update (Carl Pilcher)**
 - Director candidates identified and interviews in progress
 - New initiative: synergy themes involving two or more NAI teams
 - Directors Discretionary Fund further supports synergy themes
 - New International Partner: Japan AstroBiology Consortium (JABC)

Ongoing and Proposed Studies Relevant to CAPS

Review of MEPAG's Report on Mars Special Regions (completed)

Review of SMD/PSD Reorganization of R&A Programs (awaiting funding)

Review of Europa Clipper Mission (pending action by NASA/SMD)

Review of Planetary Protection Policies and Practices (action by expected soon)

Workshop on Life Detection (whitepaper being drafted)

Planetary Science Decadal Midterm Review (CAPS of "SoT" sent to NASA)

Horizon 2020 Planetary Protection for Outer Solar System (Observer status)