

January 15, 2012

# Heliophysics

Space Weather Enterprise Forum, June 5, 2012

Dr. Barbara Giles

Director, Heliophysics Division, NASA Headquarters

# Heliophysics Press Highlights

Apr 16, 2012  
**Satellite captures giant eruption from sun today**  
By Michael Winter, USA TODAY  
Updated 12 17h ago



**SMITHSONIAN COLLECTOR'S EDITION**  
**MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE**  
DARK ENERGY WHAT IS IT?  
IS THE **SUN HEATING UP?**  
ASTRONOMICAL SECRETS OF THE SPHINX



**BEST Views Yet of the SUN**  
**SKY & TELESCOPE**  
THE ESSENTIAL MAGAZINE  
FEBRUARY 2011  
**The Solar Superstorm Threat**  
naturenews



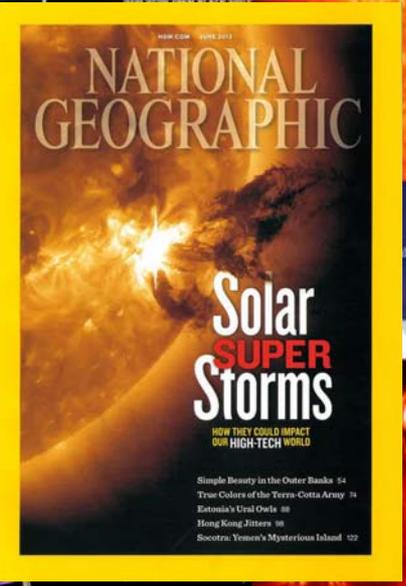
**DISCOVER MAGAZINE**  
Health & Medicine | Mind & Brain | Technology | Space | Human Origins | Living World | Environment  
**HUGE sunspots turning toward Earth**  
As the Sun rotates roughly once per month, we see different features come into view... and the latest is an enormous sunspot system which just came around the limb of the Sun:



**LIFE Magazine**  
As the sun awakens, the power grid stands vulnerable



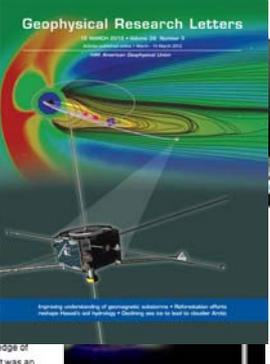
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
**Solar SUPERSTORMS**  
HOW THEY COULD IMPACT OUR HIGH-TECH WORLD



**Science**  
Alaska's Dazzling Northern Lights Reporter's View  
by Mike Ward, SPACE.com Senior Writer  
Date: 18 April 2012 Time: 07:00 AM ET



**Geophysical Research Letters**  
NASA to Reveal New Details About Solar System's Edge  
by SPACE.com Staff  
Date: 28 September 2010 Time: 02:27 AM ET



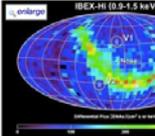
**Space on msnbc.com**  
**Good news! Killer solar flare won't destroy Earth!**  
At least not in 2012, according to NASA, which also says to not sweat 'Planet X'



**NATIONAL**  
As the sun awakens, the power grid stands vulnerable



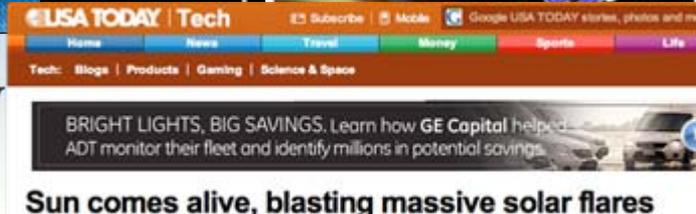
**Science News**  
**IBEX Satellite Finds Ribbon-Like Structure At Edge Of Heliosphere**  
ScienceDaily (Oct. 16, 2009) — The invisible structures of space are becoming less so, as scientists look out to the far edges of the solar wind bubble that separates our solar system from the interstellar cloud through which it flies. Using the High Energy Neutral Atom Imager, led by Los Alamos National Laboratory, the NASA Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) mission has sent back data that indicates a "noodle soup" of solar material has accumulated at the outer fringes of the heliosphere bubble.



**Space on msnbc.com**  
**Dazzling northern lights show may be on tap**  
Remnants of week's massive solar flare could light up the skies tonight — or not



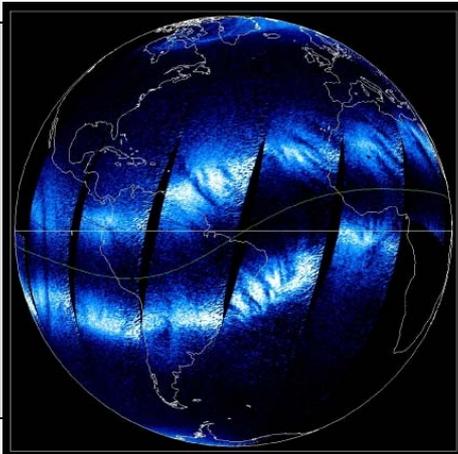
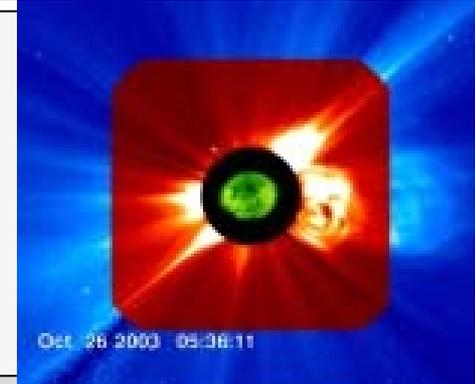
**USA TODAY | Tech**  
**Sun comes alive, blasting massive solar flares**  
BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG SAVINGS. Learn how GE Capital helped ADT monitor their fleet and identify millions in potential savings.



# Heliophysics: Understanding the Sun and its Interactions with Earth and the Solar System

## Open the Frontier to Space Environment Prediction

*Understand the fundamental physical processes of the space environment – from the Sun to Earth, to other planets, and beyond to the interstellar medium*



## Understand the Nature of Our Home in Space

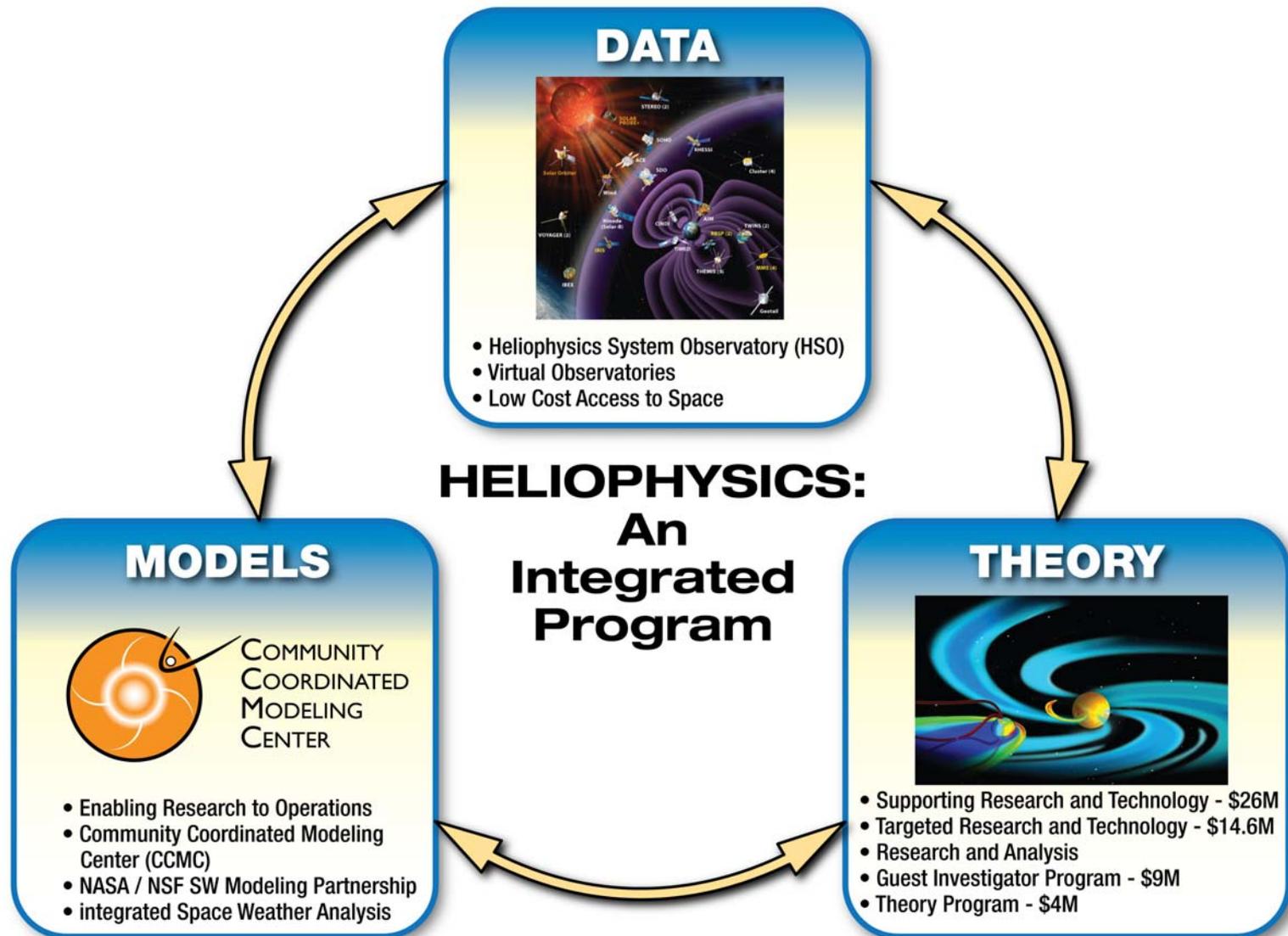
*Understand how human society, technological systems, and the habitability of planets are affected by solar variability interacting with planetary magnetic fields and atmospheres.*

## Safeguard the Journey of Exploration

*Maximize the safety and productivity of human and robotic explorers by developing the capability to predict the extreme and dynamic conditions in space*

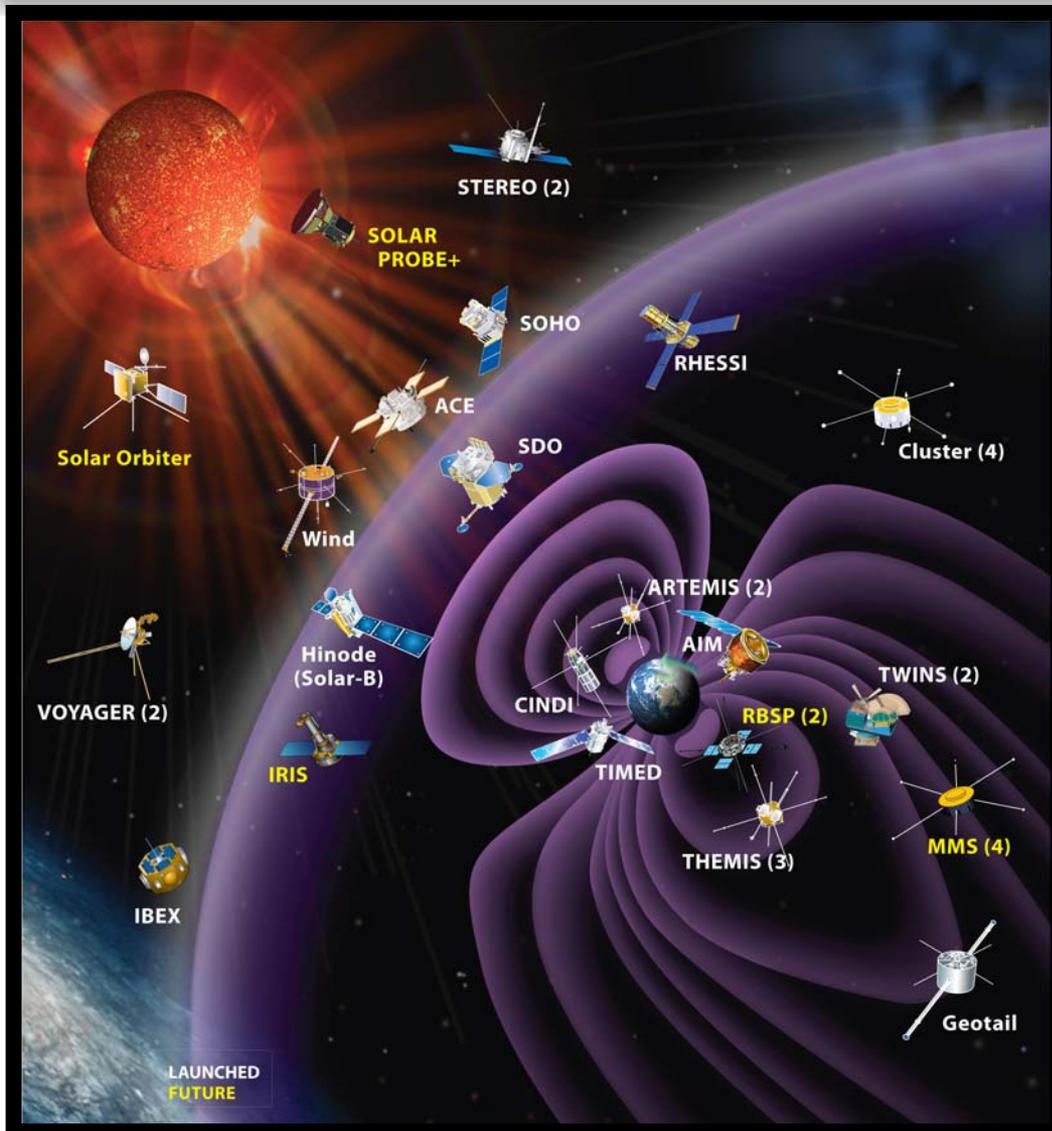


# Heliophysics Space Weather Research Components



\* Funding levels listed in FY11 dollars

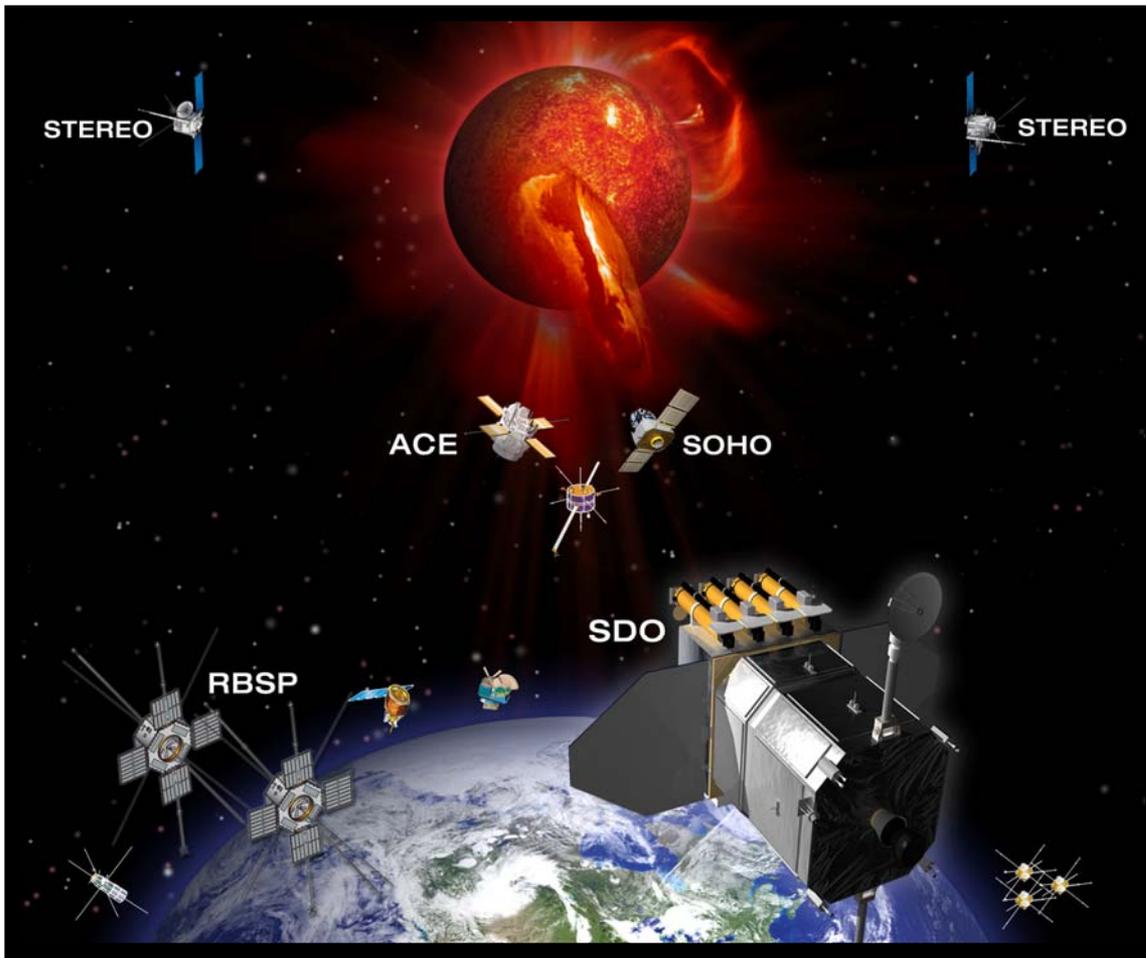
# Heliophysics System Observatory (HSO)



The Heliophysics System Observatory (HSO) utilizes the entire NASA fleet of solar, heliospheric, geospace, and planetary spacecraft as a distributed observatory to discover the larger scale and/or coupled processes at work throughout the complex system that makes up our space environment.

**The HSO consists of 17 operating missions:** Voyager, Geotail, Wind, SOHO, ACE, Cluster, TIMED, RHESSI, TWINS, Hinode, STEREO, THEMIS, AIM, CINDI, IBEX, SDO, ARTEMIS

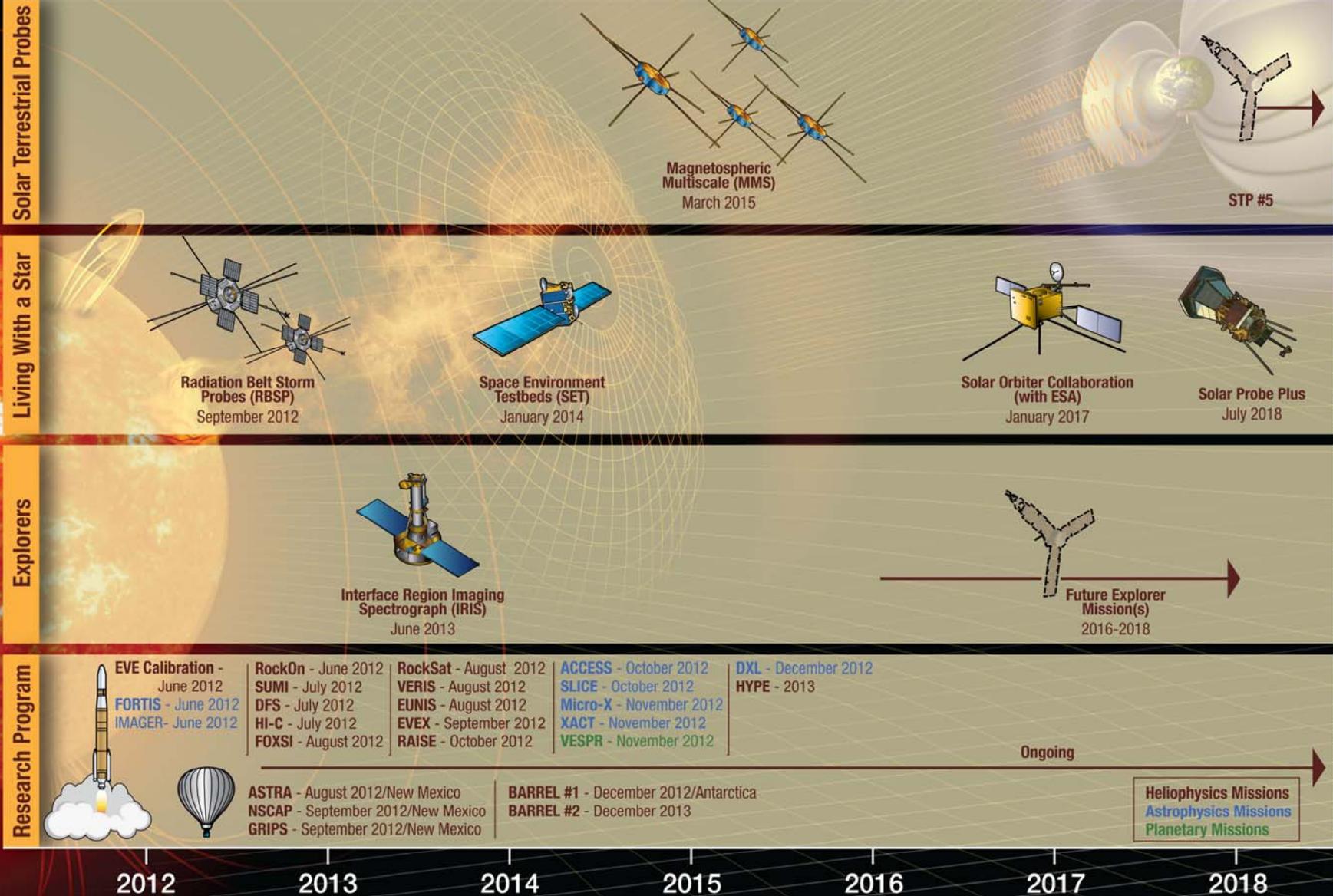
# Heliophysics Research Missions with Space Weather Utility



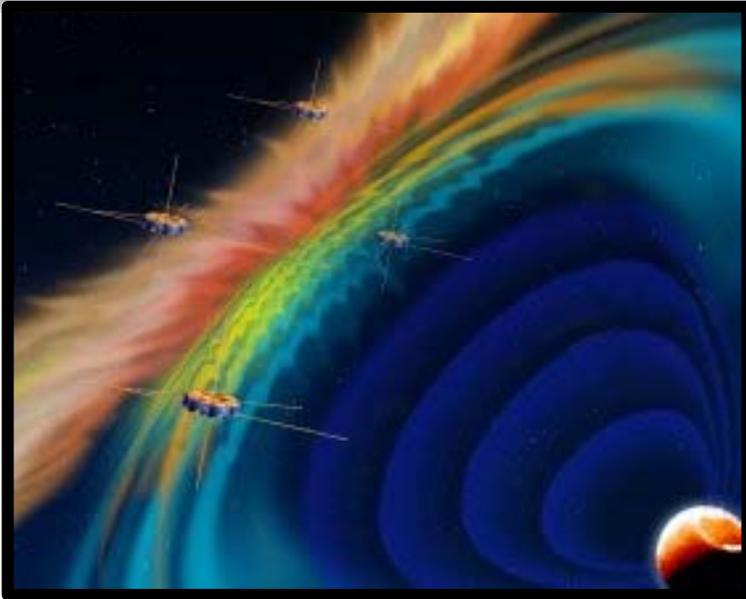
Every day we watch the Sun for signs of flares and coronal mass ejections with SDO, STEREO, ACE, Wind, and other solar sensing satellites. We monitor the effects on Earth's near space environment with AIM, THEMIS, CINDI and other Sun-Earth connection satellites.

Heliophysics research provides Theory, Data, and Modeling development services to national space weather efforts including the Community Coordinated Modeling Center (CCMC), a multi-agency partnership to enable, support and perform the research and development for next-generation space science and space weather models.

# Heliophysics Program 2012-2018



# Solar Terrestrial Probes (STP) Program



- **Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS):**

The MMS mission will use Earth's magnetosphere as a laboratory to study the microphysics of magnetic reconnection, a fundamental plasma-physical process that converts magnetic energy into heat and the kinetic energy of charged particles.

These processes — magnetic reconnection, particle acceleration, and turbulence — occur in all astrophysical plasma systems but can be studied in situ only in our solar system and most efficiently in Earth's magnetosphere, where they control the dynamics of the geospace environment and play an important role in space weather. Launch: No later than March 2015

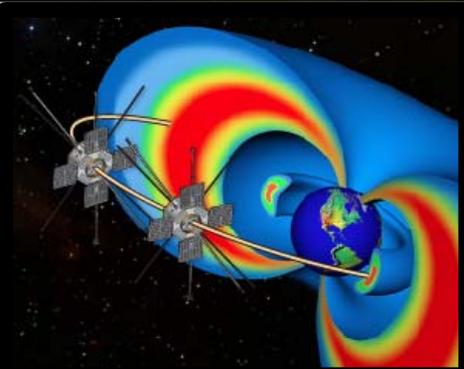


- **Solar Terrestrial Probe #5:**

STP #5 will be defined by the 2012 Decadal Survey. Mission planning activities will start upon receipt of the Decadal Survey.

*Left: Fit check of MMS FPI sensors on Spacecraft Deck #1*

# Living With a Star (LWS) Program



- **Radiation Belt Storm Probes (RBSP):**

The RBSP mission will provide insight into the dynamics of particle acceleration within the radiation belts and give scientists the data they need to make predictions of changes in this critical region of space. Two spacecraft will orbit the Earth and sample the harsh radiation belt environment where major space weather activity occurs and many spacecraft operate. The goal is to understand how particle acceleration mechanisms operate in both space and time.

Launch: August 23, 2012



- **Balloon Array for RBSP Relativistic Electron Losses (BARREL):**

BARREL is a balloon-based mission to augment the measurements of the RBSP mission. There will be two campaigns of five to eight long-duration balloons aloft simultaneously over a 1-month period to provide measurements of the extent of relativistic electron precipitation and allow an estimate of the total electron loss from the radiation belts.

Launch: BARREL #1 December 2012, BARREL #2 December 2013.



- **Space Environment Testbeds (SET):**

SET will fly as a piggyback payload on the U.S. Air Force Deployable Structures Experiment (DSX) mission. SET will perform flight and ground investigations to characterize the space environment and its impact on hardware performance in space. Launch: January 2014

# Living With a Star (LWS) Program



On May 29 the Korean Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI) dedicated a new 7-meter antenna, their intent is to provide world-wide access to RBSP real-time space weather data.

Access to real-time space weather data is necessarily an international partnership effort. Other countries working toward providing RBSP real-time data are the South Africa, Czech Republic, Brazil, and Argentina.

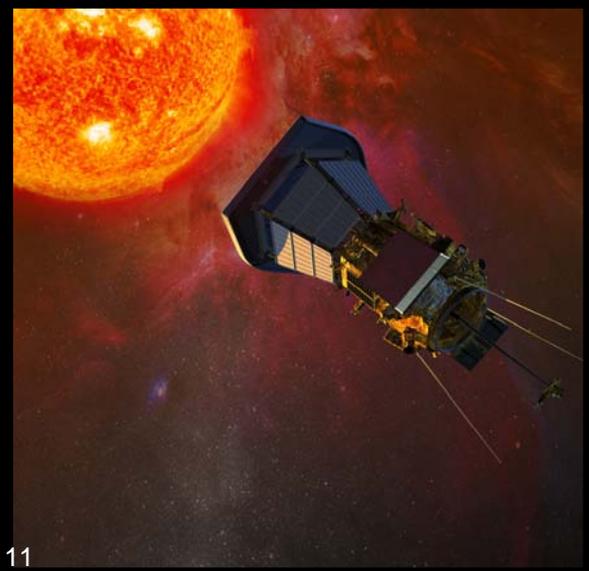
# Living With a Star (LWS) - *Continued*



- **Solar Orbiter Collaboration (SOC):**

SOC will unravel how solar transients alter the plasma and magnetic field structure of the inner heliosphere and measure the solar polar magnetic fields for the first time using a combination of in-situ and remote sensing instruments.

Solar Orbiter will approach the Sun within the orbit of Mercury and using multiple Venus encounters its orbit will be cranked up to above 40 degrees solar latitude giving an unprecedented view of the solar poles to its remote sensing instruments. Launch: No earlier than 2017.

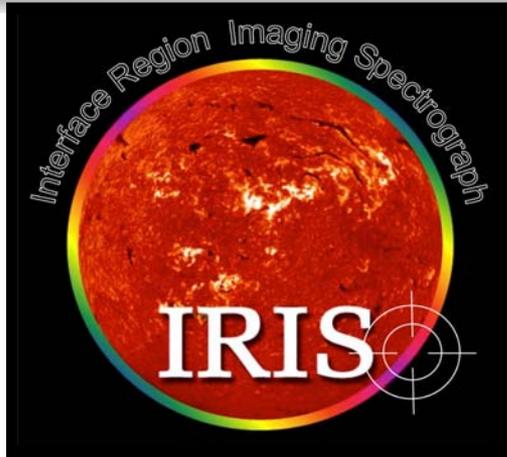


- **Solar Probe Plus (SPP):**

SPP will approach as close as nine solar radii from the surface of the Sun, repeatedly sampling the near-Sun environment. By directly probing the solar corona, this mission will provide essential knowledge and understanding of coronal heating and of the origin and acceleration of the solar wind, critical questions in heliophysics that have been ranked as top priorities for decades.

By making the first direct, in situ measurements of the region where some of the most hazardous solar energetic particles are energized, SPP will make a fundamental contribution to our ability to characterize and forecast the radiation environment in which future space explorers will work and live. Launch: No earlier than 2018

# Explorers Program



- **Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS):**

Understanding the interface between the photosphere and corona is a fundamental challenge in solar and heliospheric science. The IRIS mission opens a window into this crucial region by tracing the flow of energy and plasma through the chromosphere and transition region into the corona and solar wind using spectrometry and imaging. IRIS will contribute to our fundamental understanding of the solar energy transport, will increase our ability to forecast space weather, and will provide an archetype for all stellar atmospheres. Launch: No later than June 2013

- **U.S. Participating Investigator (USPI):**

The 2010 Explorer Program AO solicited proposals for U.S. Participants on missions being built and flown by an agency other than NASA. Three of these proposals were selected for funding:

- **J. Forbes:** USPI-GOCE: U. of Colorado: Middle Thermosphere Variability due to Sources From Above and Below
- **J.D. Moses:** Naval Research Laboratory: US Participation in the Solar Orbiter Multi Element Telescope for Imaging and Spectroscopy (METIS)
- **W. Peterson:** U. of Colorado: Investigations of the mid-latitude thermospheric response to variations in solar irradiance and geomagnetic activity using photoelectron and other observations from the Canadian ePOP Mission

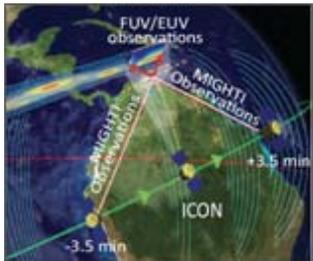


Left: IRIS Final Frame Inspection

# Explorers Program - Continued

## ICON: *Ionospheric Connection Explorer*

PI: T. Immel UC Berkeley

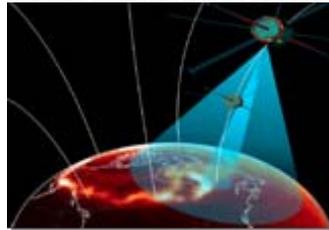


- How neutral atmosphere affects the ionosphere & How solar wind and magnetosphere affect the ionosphere

## Explorer Mission Selections

### OHMIC: *Observatory for Heteroscale Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling*

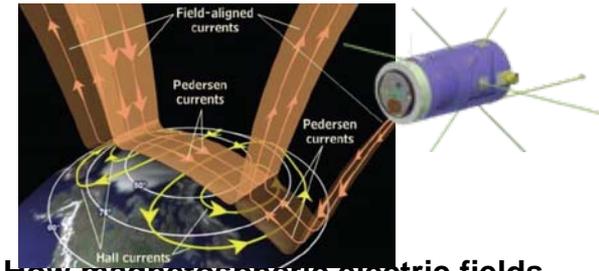
PI: J. Burch / SWRI



- How magnetospheric EM energy flows downward to power aurora & How ion outflows are initiated and modify the underlying ionosphere

### ASTRE: *Atmosphere-Space Transition Region Explorer*

PI: R. Pfaff / GSFC

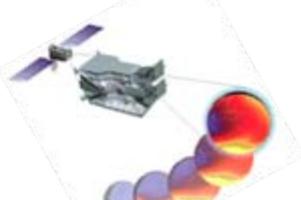


- How magnetospheric electric fields drive neutral atmospheric motions & How neutral-ion transition region regulates the magnetosphere

## Mission of Opportunity Selections

### GOLD: *Global Scale Observations of the Limb and Disk*

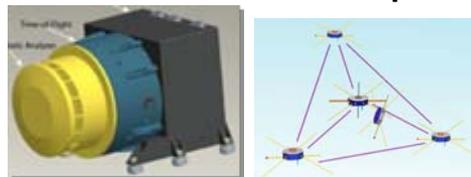
PI: R. Eastes / U. Central Florida



- ... how the ionosphere and thermosphere respond to geomagnetic storms, solar radiation, and upward propagating atmospheric tides

### IMSA on SCOPE: *Ion Mass Spectrum Analyzer*

PI: L. Kistler / U. New Hampshire



- ... fundamental processes of reconnection, particle acceleration, and turbulence ... focused on the feedback mechanisms between ion and electron scale lengths

### CPI on the ISS: *Coronal Physics*



- ... processes that heat and accelerate the plasma components of the slow and fast solar wind

# Heliophysics Decadal Survey and Roadmap Response

## Heliophysics Decadal Survey:

- The Space Studies Board has organized a broadly-based assessment of the scientific priorities of the U.S. solar and space physics research enterprise for the period 2013-2022.

See Progress At: [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/CurrentProjects/SSB\\_056864](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/CurrentProjects/SSB_056864)

- Anticipated Completion Date for the Survey: July 2012

## Roadmap Response:

- The Heliophysics 2012 Roadmap will provide the implementation response to the Decadal Survey. It will present both long-term goals and nearer-term objectives. The Roadmap is the product of, and is periodically revised by, the science community at large.
- Roadmap focus:
  - Align the science strategy developed by the Decadal with the Heliophysics Program over the next 10 years
  - Extend the strategy out to 2033
  - Present science priorities with a flexible mission implementation approach consistent with the current (FY13) budget profile
  - Identify needed Technology development
  - Goal: Roadmap rollout Dec. 2012

# Heliophysics: The Science of Space Weather

