

NEAR

Key Space Explorations

Name of Mission (Sponsor)

Main Purpose of Mission

Launch Date



HESSI

the sun

ACE, Advanced Composition Explorer (NASA)	Monitor solar atomic particles and the interplanetary environment	1997
TRACE, Transition Region and Coronal Explorer (NASA)	Photograph the sun's coronal plasmas in the ultraviolet range	1998
Coronas F (Russia)	Observe the sun's spectrum during a solar maximum	1999
HESSI, High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (NASA)	Study solar flares through x-rays, gamma rays and neutrons	2000
Photon (Russia)	Analyze gamma rays from the sun	2000
SST, Space Solar Telescope (China and Germany)	Study the sun's magnetic field	2001
Genesis (NASA)	Gather atomic nuclei from the solar wind and return them to Earth	2001
Solar B (Japan)	Study the sun's magnetic field around violent events	2004
Solar Probe (NASA)	Measure particles, fields, x-rays and light in the sun's corona	2007

the moon

Lunar A (Japan)	Analyze the moon's subsurface soil	1999
Euromoon 2000 (ESA)	Explore the moon's south pole (two-part mission)	2000 and 2001
Selene (Japan)	Map the moon, studying fields and particles	2003

Mars Global Surveyor (NASA)	Map Mars and relay data from other missions	1996
Planet-B (Japan)	Study interactions between the solar wind and Mars's atmosphere	1998
Mars Surveyor 1998 (NASA)	Explore a site near Mars's south pole (two-part mission)	1998 and 1999
Deep Space 2 (NASA)	Analyze Martian subsurface soil	1999
Mars Surveyor 2001 (NASA)	Land a rover on Mars (two-part mission)	2001
VESPER, Venus Sounder for Planetary Exploration (NASA)	Observe Venus's atmosphere (under study)	2002

Mars Surveyor 2003 (NASA)	Collect Martian soil samples (two-part mission, under study)	2003
Mars Express (ESA)	Analyze Martian soil, using an orbiter and two landers	2003

Europa Orbiter (NASA)	Determine if Jupiter's fourth-largest moon has an ocean	2003
MESSENGER, Mercury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry and Ranging (NASA)	Map Mercury and its magnetic field (under study)	2004

Pluto-Kuiper Express (NASA)	Explore the solar system's only unvisited planet and the Kuiper belt (under study)	2004
Mars Surveyor 2005 (NASA)	Return Martian rock and soil samples to Earth (under study)	2005

CONTOUR, Comet Nucleus Tour (NASA)	Produce spectral maps of three comet nuclei	2002
Deep Space 4 (NASA)	Land a probe on Comet Tempel 1's nucleus	2003

Rosetta (ESA and France)	Land a probe on Comet Wirtanen's nucleus	2003
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the planets



comets

tions of the Next Decade

Name of Mission (Sponsor)

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asteroid belt

Deep Space 1 (NASA)
MUSES-C (Japan)

Test spacecraft technologies en route to asteroid 1992 KD
Return a sample of material from an asteroid

1998
2002

RXTE, Rossi X-ray Timing Explorer (NASA)

Watch x-ray sources change over time

1995

Beppo-SAX (Italy and the Netherlands)

Observe x-ray sources over a wide energy range

1996

HALCA (Japan)

Study galactic nuclei and quasars via radio interferometry

1997

SWAS, Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite (NASA)

Search for oxygen, water and carbon in interstellar clouds

1998

Odin (Sweden)

Detect millimeter-wavelength emissions from oxygen and water in interstellar gas

1999

FUSE, Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (NASA)

Detect deuterium in interstellar space

1999

WIRE, Wide-Field Infrared Explorer (NASA)

Observe galaxy formation with a cryogenic telescope

1999

ABRIXAS, A Broad-Band Imaging X-ray All-Sky Survey (Germany)

Make a hard x-ray, all-sky survey

1999

SXG, Spectrum X-Gamma (Russia)

Measure x-ray emissions from pulsars, black holes, supernova remnants and active galactic nuclei

1999

HETE II, High Energy Transient Experiment (NASA)

Study gamma-ray bursters

1999

XMM, X-ray Multi-Mirror (ESA)

Observe spectra of cosmic x-ray sources

2000

Astro-E (Japan)

Make high-resolution x-ray observations

2000

MAP, Microwave Anisotropy Probe (NASA)

Study the universe's origin and evolution through the cosmic microwave background

2000

Radioastron (Russia)

Observe high-energy phenomena via radio interferometry

2000

SIRTF, Space Infrared Telescope Facility (NASA)

Make infrared observations of stars and galaxies

2001

INTEGRAL, International Gamma-Ray Astrophysics Lab (ESA)

Obtain spectra of neutron stars, black holes, gamma-ray bursters and active galactic nuclei

2001

GALEX, Galaxy Evolution Explorer (NASA)

Observe stars, galaxies and heavy elements at ultraviolet wavelengths (under study)

2001

Spectrum UV (Russia)

Study astrophysical objects at ultraviolet wavelengths

2001

Deep Space 3 (NASA)

Test techniques for flying spacecraft in formation

2002

Corot (France)

Search for evidence of planets around distant stars

2002

SIM, Space Interferometry Mission (NASA)

Image stars that may host Earth-like planets (under study)

2005

Constellation X-ray Mission (NASA)

Perform high-resolution x-ray spectroscopy (under study)

After 2005

OWL, Orbiting Wide-Angle Light Collectors (NASA)

Study cosmic-ray effects on Earth's atmosphere (under study)

After 2005

FIRST, Far Infrared Submillimeter Telescope, and Planck (ESA)

Discern the fine structure of the cosmic microwave background (combined mission)

2007

NGST, Next Generation Space Telescope (NASA)

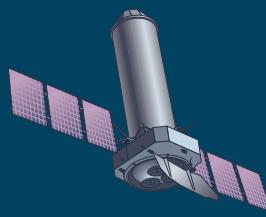
View space at infrared wavelengths (under study)

2008

TPF, Terrestrial Planet Finder (NASA)

Find planets and protoplanets orbiting nearby stars (under study)

2010



XMM