

Sample Return

Dr Rain Irshad

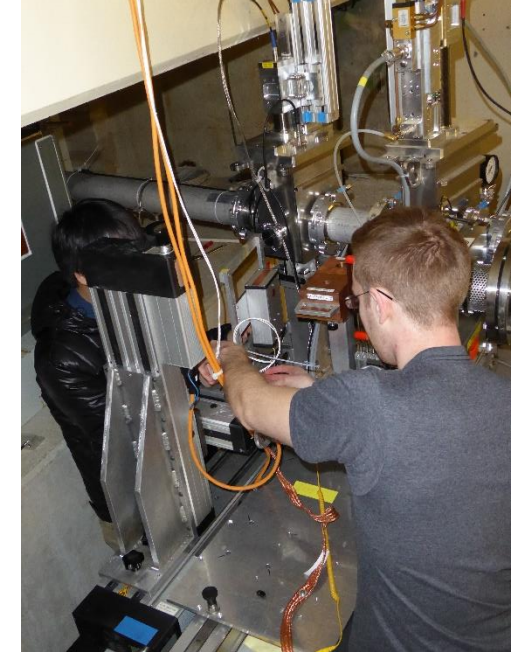
Autonomous Systems Lead, STFC-RAL Space



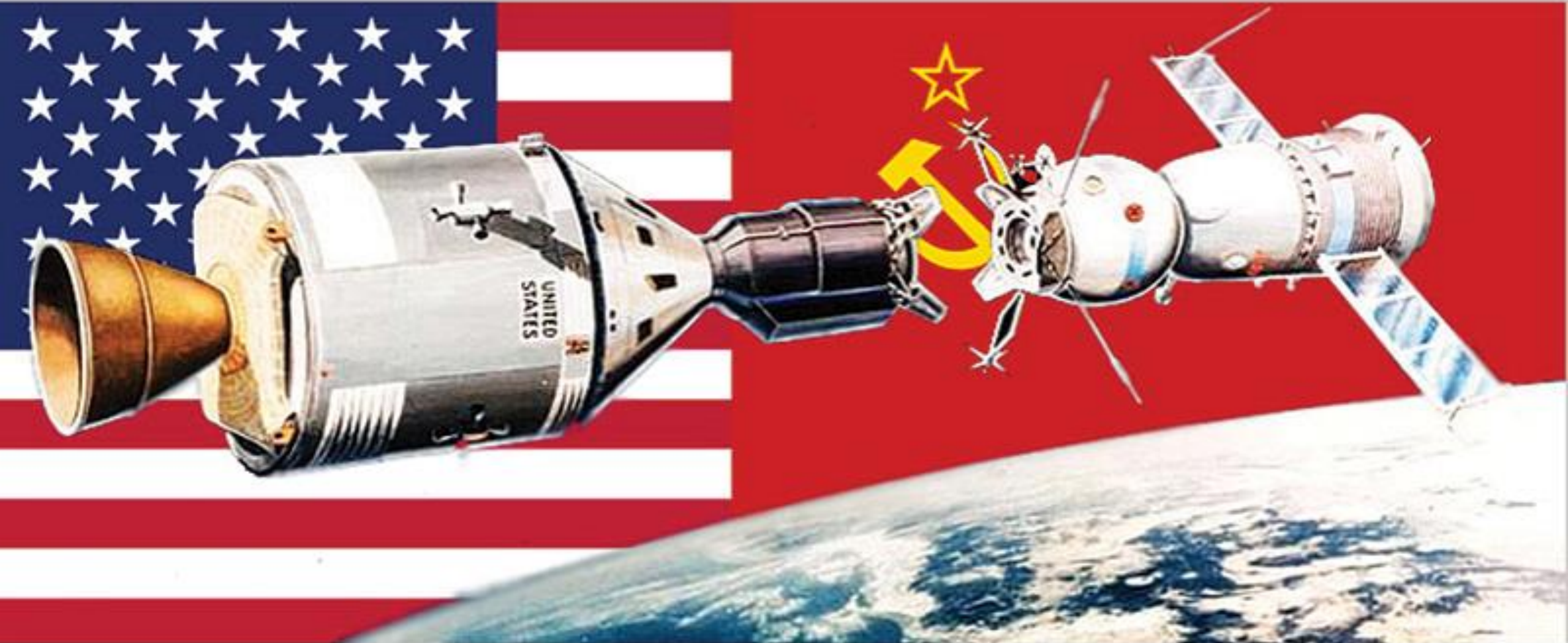
Sample Return – what and why?

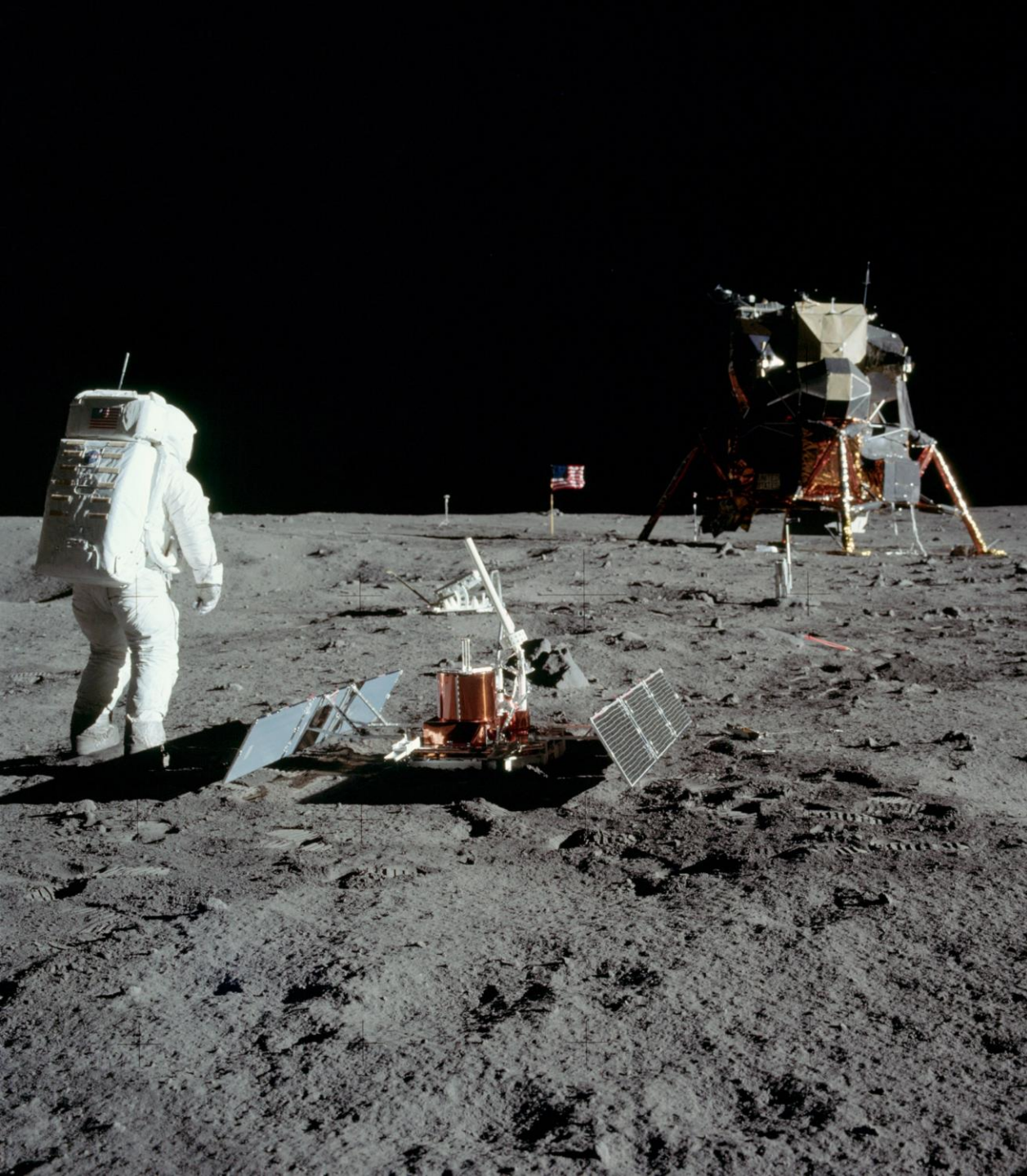
The return of extra-terrestrial material to Earth

- ✦ Provides fundamental ground truth
- ✦ We are limited in the technology we can send into space
 - ✦ Instruments must be small and lightweight
 - ✦ Robust enough to survive launch, radiation, temperature extremes
- ✦ Facilities on Earth are have greater capability
 - ✦ Global facilities may be employed for analysis
 - ✦ Provides greater resolution, more accurate, higher quality data
- ✦ Analysis of returned samples provides information on:
 - ✦ Origins of Solar System
 - ✦ Formation of planets
 - ✦ Identification of resources
 - ✦ Origins of life



The History of Sample Return

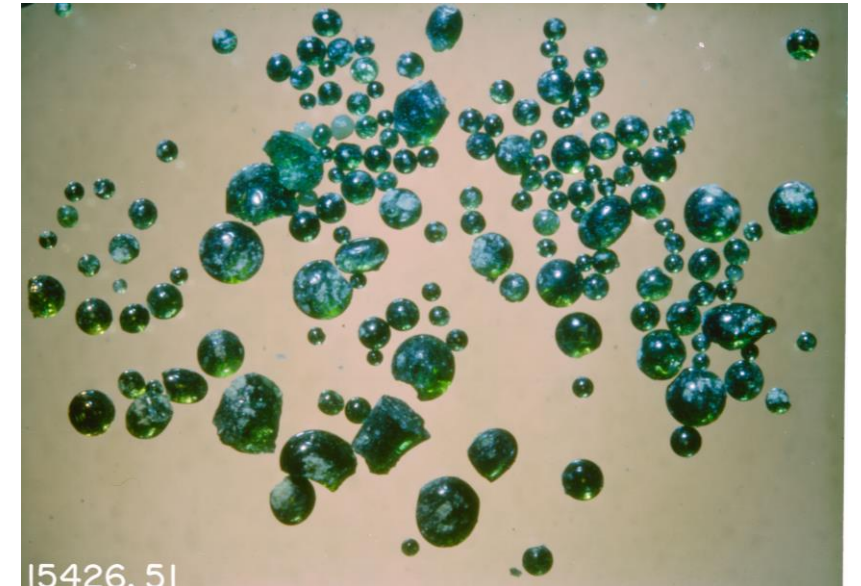
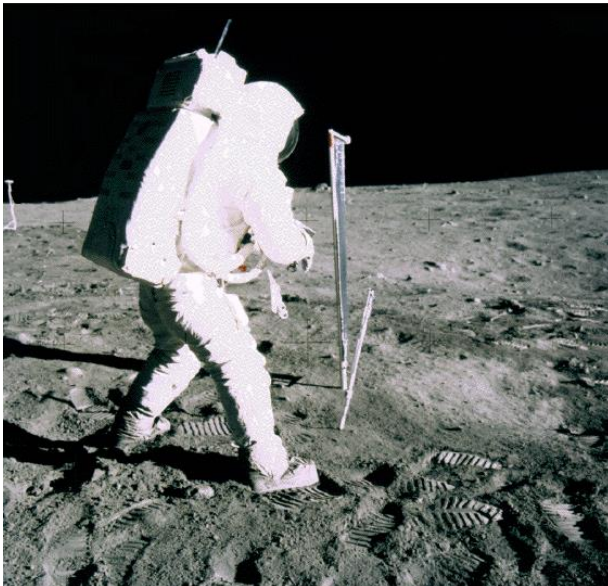




Apollo Programme

Returned over 382kg of Lunar rock and soil

- ✦ Provided valuable scientific knowledge on the moon
- ✦ Demonstrated the importance of curation for future scientists
 - ✦ In 2008 water was discovered in lunar volcanic glass samples
 - ✦ In 2013 chemical traces of water were discovered in the Genesis rock, challenging long-standing theories on how the moon formed



List of Sample Return Missions

Successful Missions

- Earth-Orbital Debris LEO
- Tanpopo LEO
- Luna 16 Moon
- Luna 20 Moon
- Luna 24 Moon
- Stardust Comet
- Genesis Solar wind
- Hayabusa Asteroid

Failed Missions

- Luna E-8-5 402, 405, 412 Moon
- Cosmos 300 Moon
- Cosmos 305 Moon
- Luna 15, 18, 23 Moon
- Fobos-Grunt Phobos



Hayabusa2



Osiris-Rex



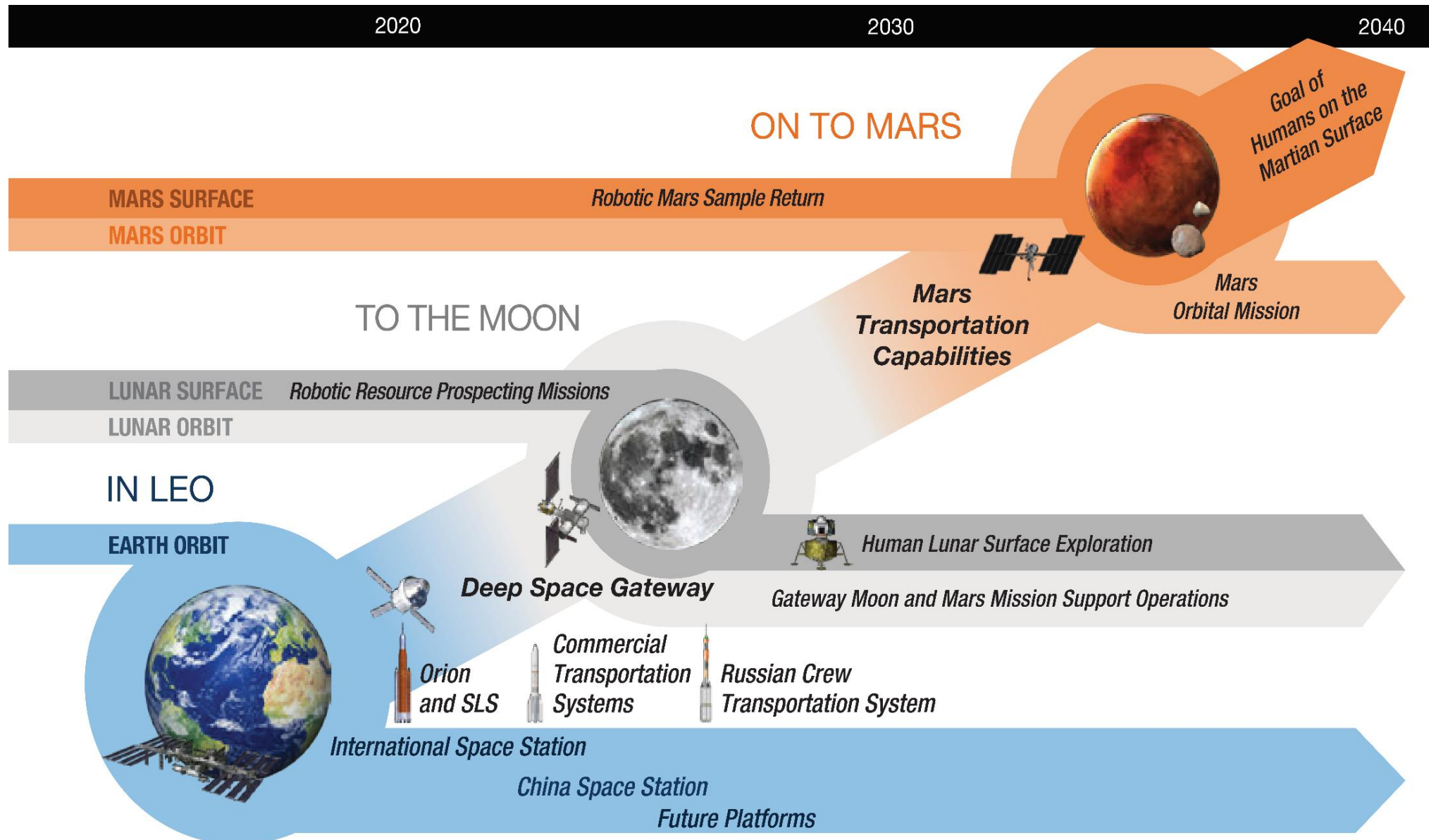
Global Space Exploration Strategy

International Space Exploration Coordination Group

- ✦ Established by the 14 Space Agencies:
 - ✦ CSIRO – Australia
 - ✦ CSA – Canada
 - ✦ ESA – European Space Agency
 - ✦ CNES – France
 - ✦ ISRO – India
 - ✦ ASI – Italy
 - ✦ JAXA – Japan
 - ✦ KIRI – Republic of Korea
 - ✦ ROSCOSMOS – Russia
 - ✦ Star Space Agency – Ukraine
 - ✦ UAE Space Agency – United Arab Emirates
 - ✦ UK Space Agency – United Kingdom
 - ✦ NASA – United States



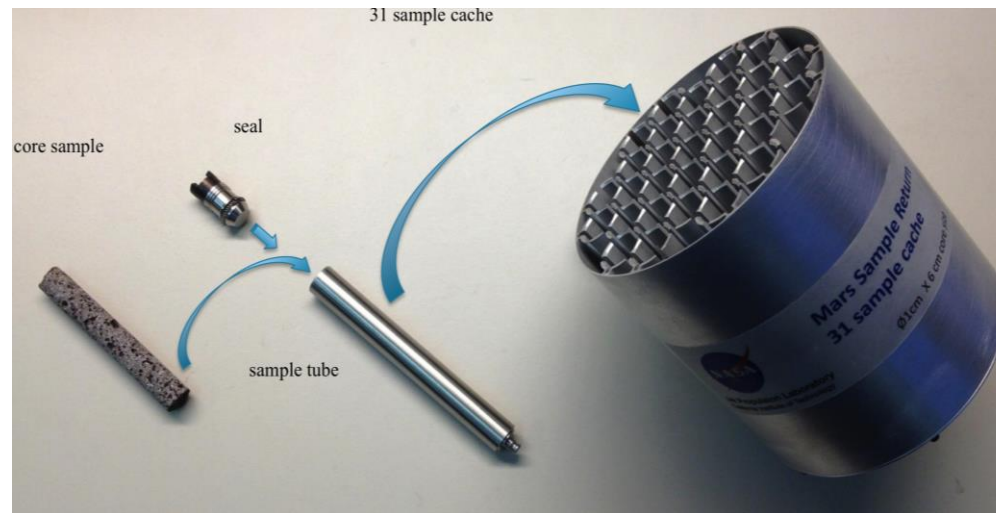
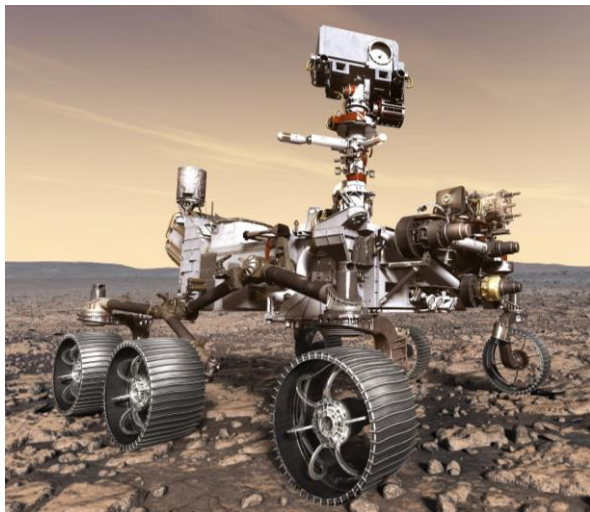
Space Exploration Roadmap



Mars Sample Return

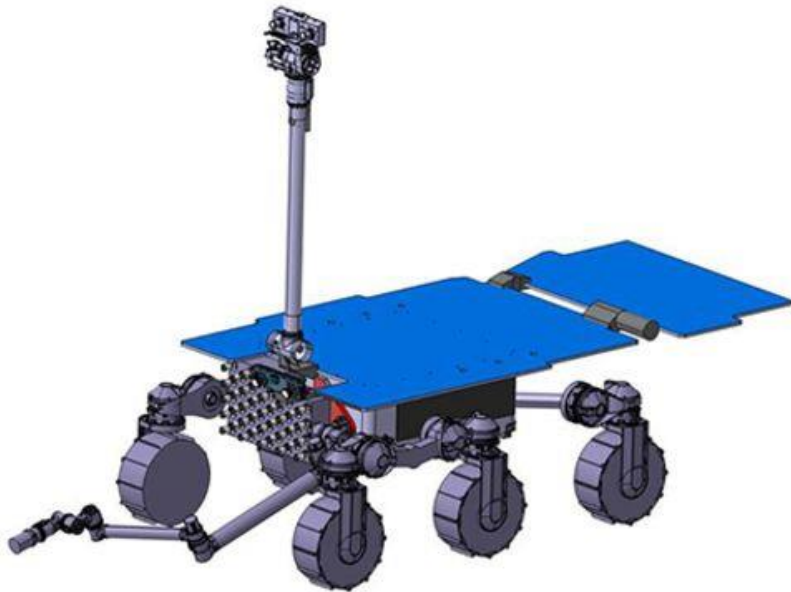
Joint NASA/ESA Enterprise – 2 stage mission

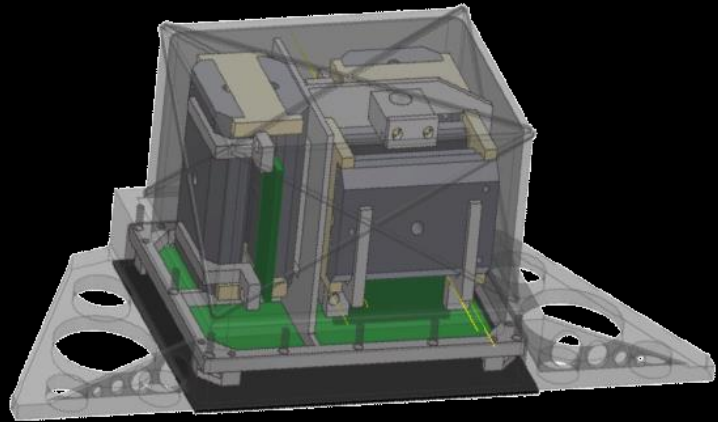
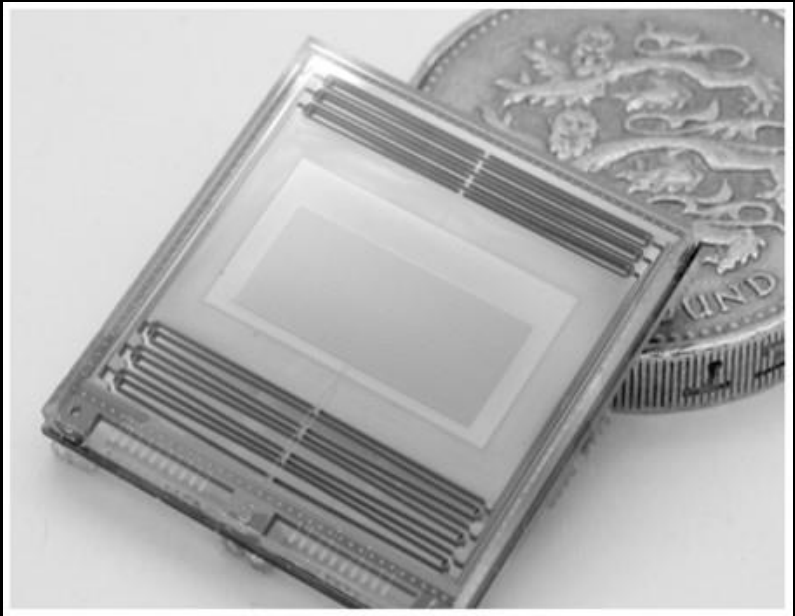
- ✦ MARS 2020
 - ✦ NASA rover mission with drill to collect core rock/soil samples to cache on Martian surface
 - ✦ Carries experiments to support future human exploration e.g. MOXIE – oxygen extraction
- ✦ MSR 2030
 - ✦ Sample Return Lander with Mars Ascent Vehicle and Sample Fetch Rover to collect samples
 - ✦ Earth Return Orbiter – capturing samples to return to Earth. May become a separate mission



UK Involvement

- ✦ Airbus undertaking study for Sample Fetch Rover
- ✦ TAS-F undertaking similar study for aspects of rover design
- ✦ RAL Space supporting ESA in provision of field trials for robotic testing
 - ✦ Building on existing heritage from previous projects in support of ExoMars
 - ✦ Includes development of terrestrial analogue rover for testing





MARS

Planetary Protection

Protecting the Earth and Space from biological contamination

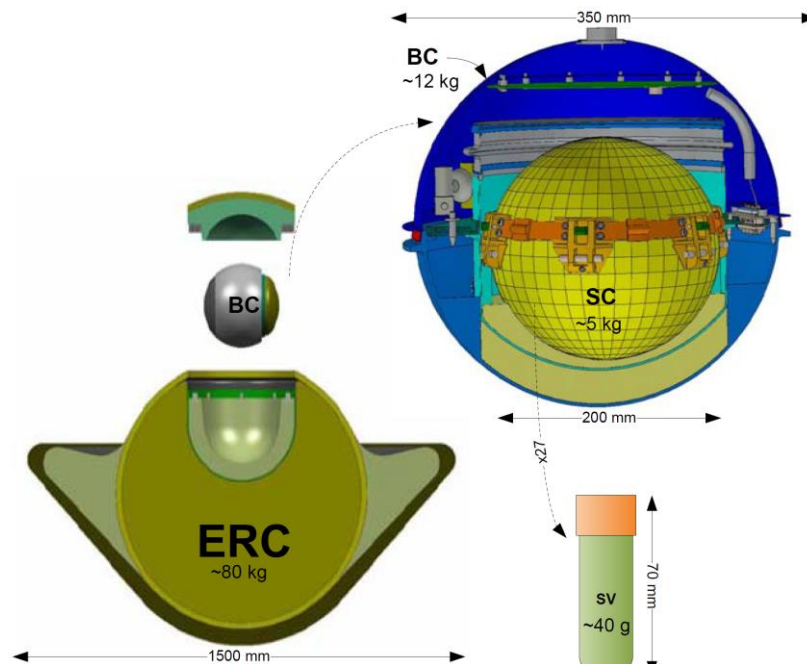
- ✦ Legal stipulation in UN Outer Space Treaty; recommendations defined by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)

Mission Category	Mission Type	Planetary Bodies
I	Any	No interest to the process of chemical evolution or the origin of life
II	Any	Significant interest to process of chemical evolution and/or the origin of life - only a remote chance that contamination could compromise future investigations
III	Flyby, Orbiter	Significant interest to process of chemical evolution and/or the origin of life - significant chance that contamination could compromise future work
IV	Lander, Probe	Significant interest to process of chemical evolution and/or the origin of life - significant chance that contamination could compromise future work
V (unrestricted)	Earth Return	Deemed to have no indigenous life-forms
V (restricted)	Earth Return	Significant interest to the process of chemical evolution and/or the origin of life

Returning Samples

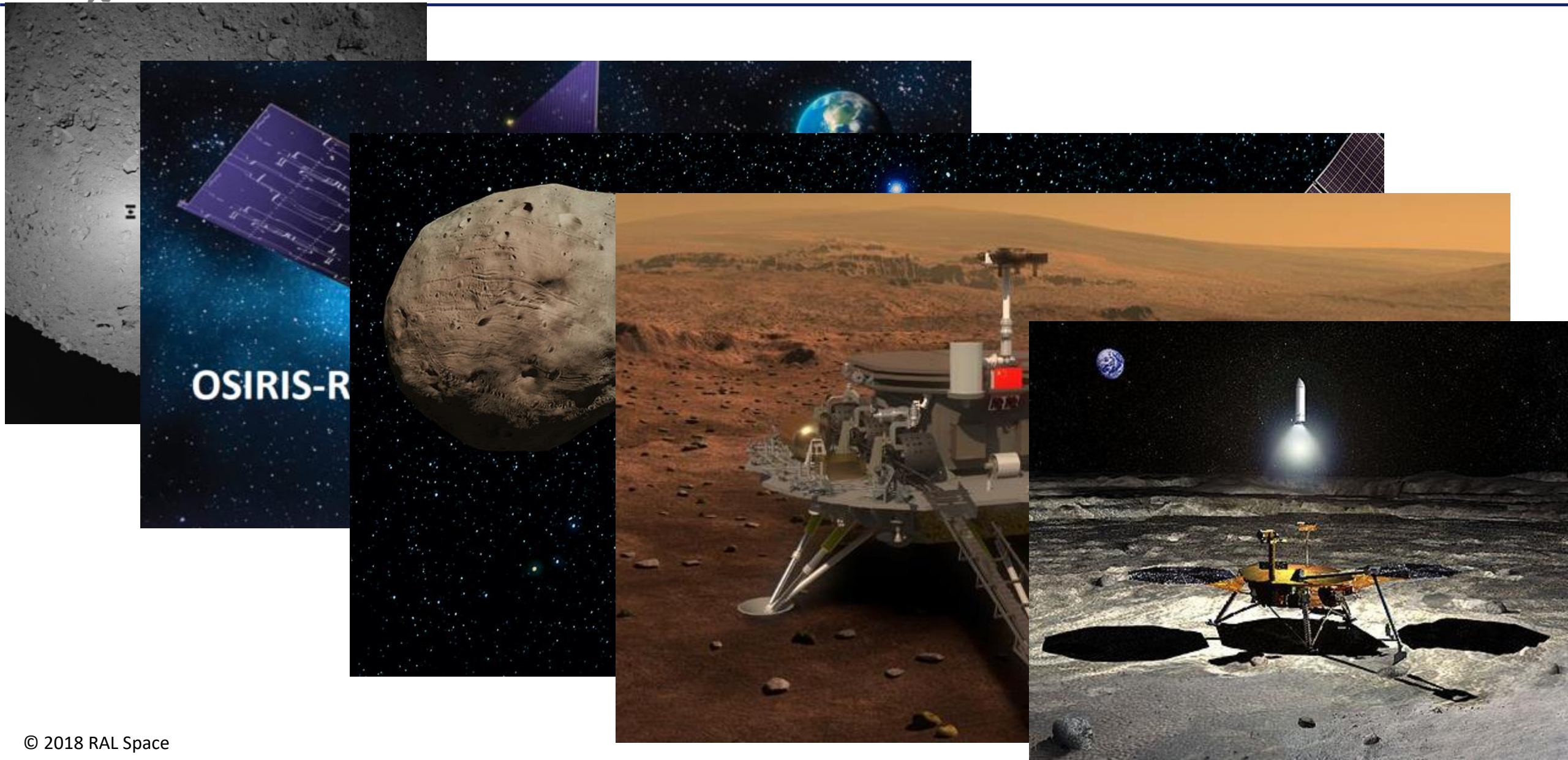
The need for a dedicated Return Facility

- Sample cores placed in layers of containers to survive transport to and re-entry into Earth's atmosphere



- Landing site for Earth Return Capsule identified in Utah Desert – Return Facility to be located here

Planned Missions



Sample Curation Facility



Scientific
analysis



Hub for European
Sample Science



Outreach &
education

STFC Harwell Campus



Establishing an international facility at Harwell Campus

- ❖ **Sample Analogue Curation Facility established at Harwell Campus**
 - ❖ Collection prepared by Natural History Museum
 - ❖ Facility set up and run by ESA
 - ❖ Location identified and supported by STFC
- ❖ **Preparation of a Business Case**
 - ❖ Collaborating with Natural History Museum
- ❖ **Investigating sources of funding**
- ❖ **Environmental Impact feasibility study**



Thank you

