

Save Our Science Fact Sheet



- **Bottom Line: NASA Science Cut by \$3 Billion**
The NASA budget proposed to Congress cuts \$3 billion from what was planned for space science and planetary exploration over the next five years.
 - More than 90% of that cut is to planetary exploration.
 - All of it is being redirected to pay for unbudgeted shuttle costs.

- **Basic Science Slashed**
 - Research and analysis programs (mostly funding for university grants) are cut 15% across the board.
 - Astrobiology (questions of life in the universe) is singled out for a cut of 50%.

- **Missions and Mission Development Cancelled**
 - **Europa mission development is cancelled.**
This long-sought mission -- actually mandated by Congress last year -- would have explored one of our best shots at finding life beyond Earth.
 - A Europa mission was endorsed by the National Academy of Sciences Planetary Decadal Survey as the number one priority, besides Mars, of solar system exploration.
 - Lying beneath the icy crust, Europa's ocean is a prime target in the search for extraterrestrial life.
 - **The Terrestrial Planet Finder (TPF) development is cancelled.**
TPF would have enabled us to find Earth-like worlds in distant solar systems, perhaps seeing continents and seasonal changes on other planets.
 - **The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is cancelled.**
This airborne platform would have studied the formation of other solar systems, the lives and deaths of stars, and black holes.

- **The Space Interferometry Mission (SIM) is delayed.** SIM would search for earthlike planets outside our solar system and measured the distances between stars.
- **The Juno mission is stretched out and delayed.** This mission to study Jupiter, the dominant planet in our solar system, was to have been the second New Frontiers mission to fly.
- **Mars Exploration Program Chopped**
NASA's Mars program was cut 40% in the past year, despite the enormous success of the Mars Exploration Rovers
 - Mars Sample Return development is cancelled.
 - All Mars mission consideration is eliminated from NASA's Vision for Space Exploration program.
 - Two Mars Scout missions scheduled for after 2011 are eliminated from planning.
 - The Mars Telecommunications Orbiter, planned for 2009, is cancelled.