

**Strategic Geography of the Solar System and Beyond.** A. C. MacDonald<sup>1</sup>, P. Smith<sup>2</sup>, M. Daniels<sup>3</sup>, P. Besha,<sup>1</sup> N. Joseph,<sup>2</sup> A. Dolgoplov, NASA Headquarters<sup>1</sup> ([alexander.c.macdonald@nasa.gov](mailto:alexander.c.macdonald@nasa.gov)), The Tauri Group,<sup>2</sup> NASA Ames Research Center<sup>3</sup>

**Introduction:** NASA is set to remain the core agent in the development of our collective relationship with the solar system—and, increasingly, other solar systems as well—as we continue to explore the cosmos through human space-flight missions and robotic probes. Our exploration activities take place within a unique physical geography but our explorations are nonetheless governed by the same types of human relationships that exist and develop between people and places everywhere. This project – a large wallmap entitled ‘Strategic Geography of the Solar System and Beyond’ - is an infographic representation of the geography of exploration that lies before us with narrative descriptions highlighting aspects of the human relationships and human geography that have long-run strategic implications for consideration.

The discipline of geography, the study of the relationships between people and places, offers techniques that can provide useful insight into the strategies that will allow us to manage the political, economic, cultural forces that provide the motivation and resources for our efforts. There are two broad classes of geographic analysis: physical geography and human geography. Human geography, the primary focus of this wallmap, encompasses physical, cultural, and economic considerations.

This strategic geography chart considers outer space from a human interest perspective beyond the traditional focal areas of scientific discovery and technology development. It challenges the viewer to think of the solar system and beyond as a natural environment filled with diverse worlds and geographies with which humanity is in the process of developing economic and cultural relationships and in which there are resources that can be used to advance and support the interests of the United States.

**Additional Information:**

The poster is very large – approximately 5 ft by 9 ft.