21st Century: "The Century of Biology" On Earth and Beyond

PCAST September 19, 2014 Dr. Jill Tarter – Bernard M. Oliver Chair, SETI Institute

Life Beyond Earth

- Discover it
 - In situ biomarkers
 - Remote biosignatures
- Communicate with it
 - Technosignatures
 - Serendipitous observations
- Export it
 - Moon, Mars, Asteroids
 - 100 Year Starship Study



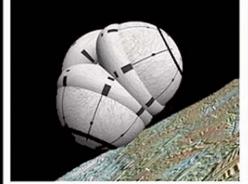


Biomarker Detection

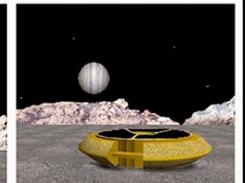
Sample Return

Mars is \$\$\$

Landers May Be Boats Or Rovers







Europa

Titan

PLANETARY LAKE LANDER

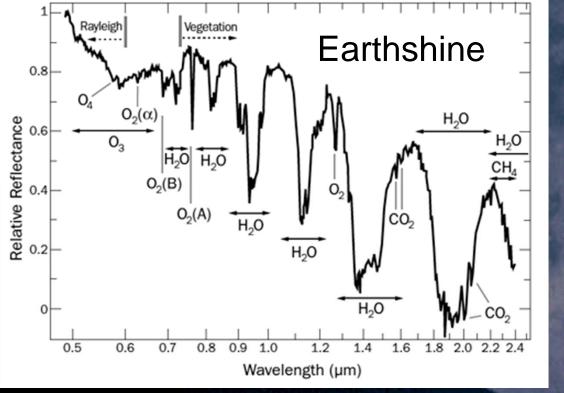


Solar System (Almost) Free Lunch

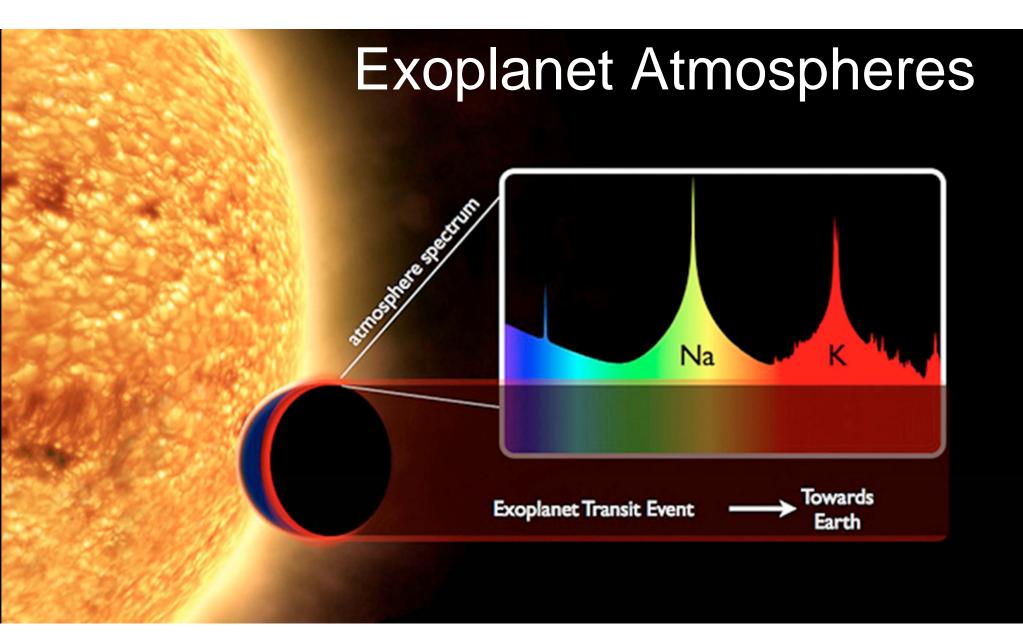
Sample return: Geysers of Enceladus & Europa

Biology As We Don't Yet Know It (a second genesis)

Biosignatures







Imaging Other Planetary Worlds

t more for Biosignatures

aCEN B

aCEN A

αCEND WFIRST-AFTA+Coronagraph

Technosignatures

Technosignatures

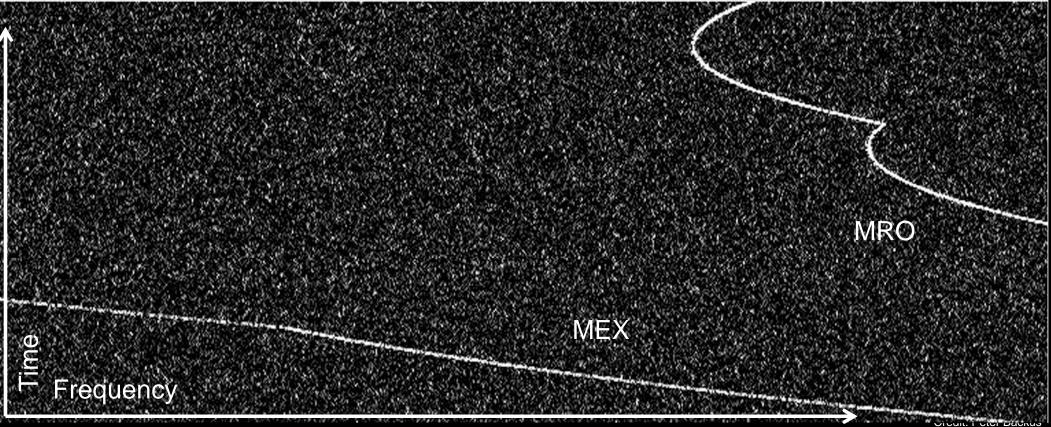
RADIO

OPTICAL

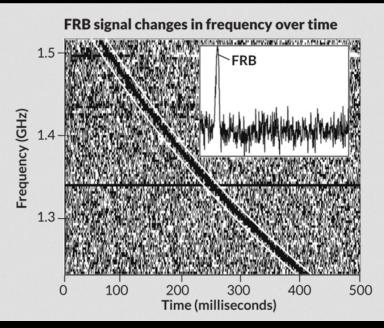


Engineered vs. Natural

Waterfall: File: 2011-11-15_19-19-12_UTC.act3151.dx3017.id-2.R.archive-compamp Center Freq: 8439.757867 MHz Subband: 0659 BW: 533.3 Hz #Half Frames: 0256 ActId: 3151



Serendipity



Fast Radio Bursts



Cepheid Morse-code

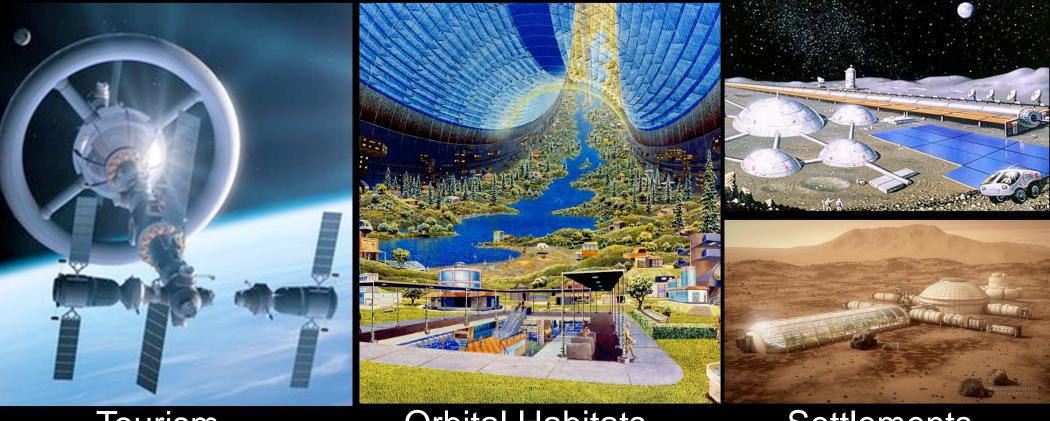
High Energy Neutrinos

Longevity





Going There



Tourism

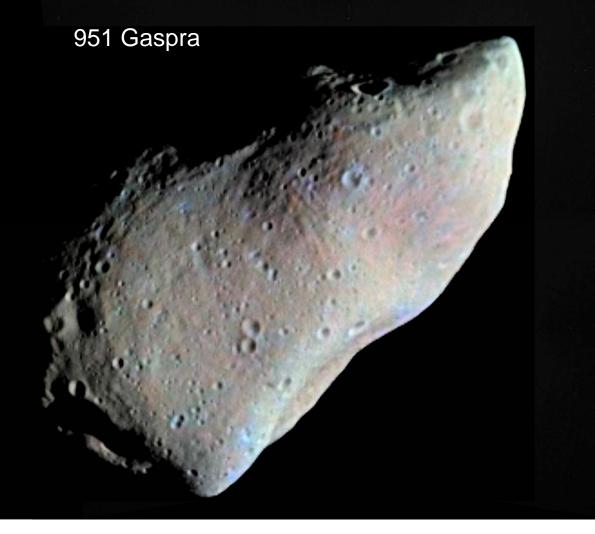
Orbital Habitats

Settlements

Human/Robotic Resource Extraction

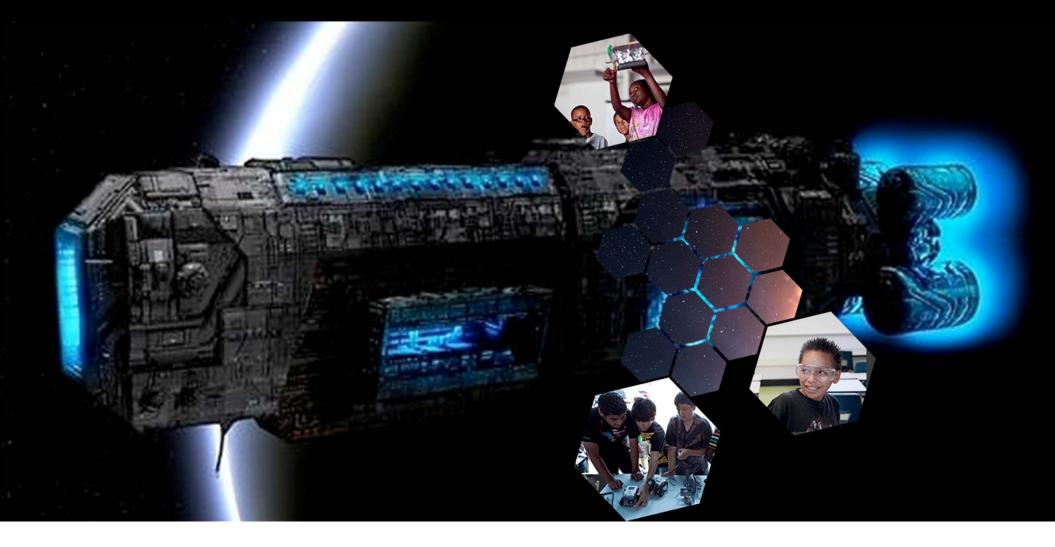


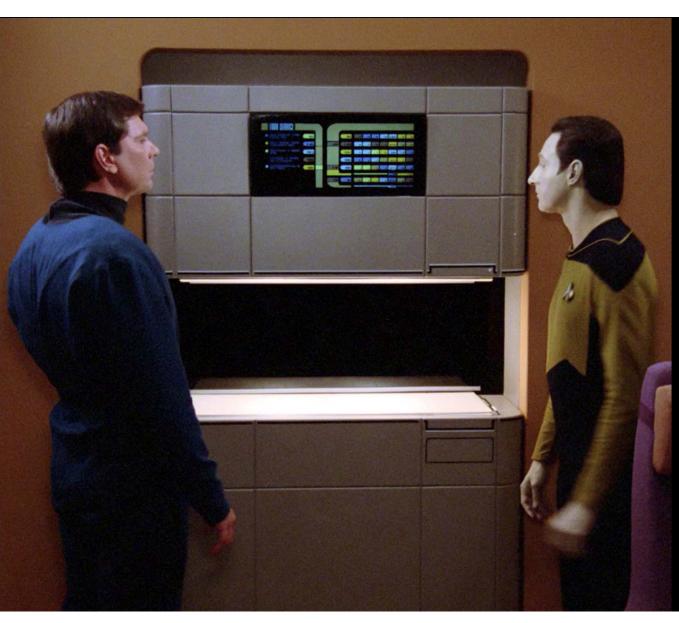
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SALEEM H Commence

Going Farther



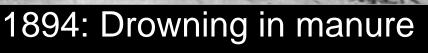


A Starship Has Both A Replicator and A Deconstructor



Fallacy Of The Replicator-Only

NYC



(2.5 million pounds/day)

Today: Drowning in mechanical horses and CO₂

Fallacy Of The Replicator-Only

NYC

Tomorrow: Drowning

Treat Our Megacities Like Starships

Use Biomimicry To Engineer Their Defense