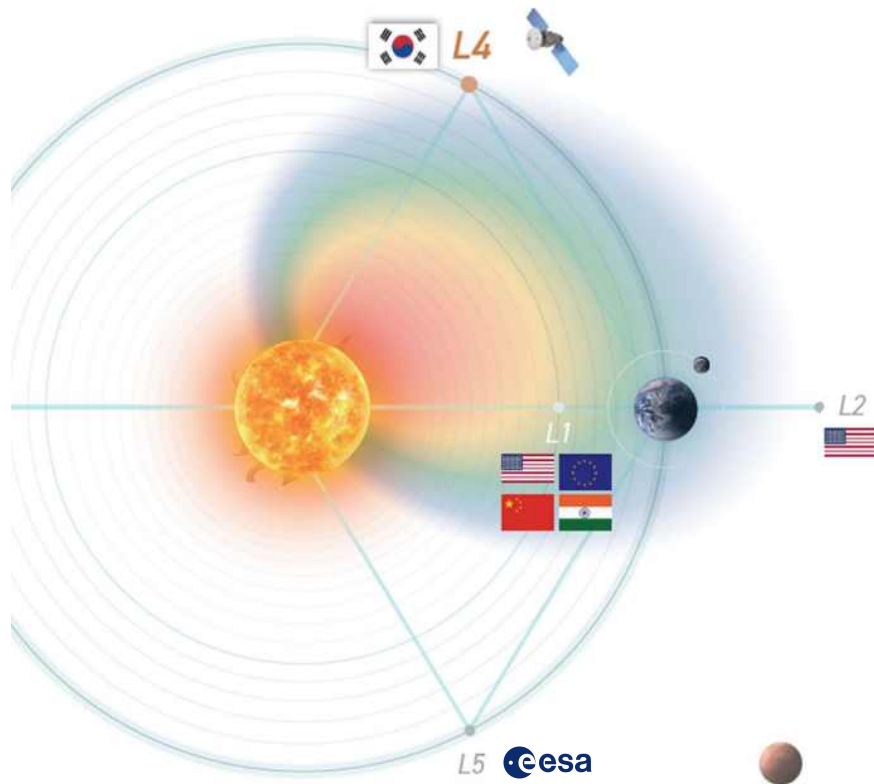


Opening New Horizons with the Korea-led L4 Mission: March 2025 Progress Report



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Mission Overview

KASA-NASA L4 Agreement

동아사이언스

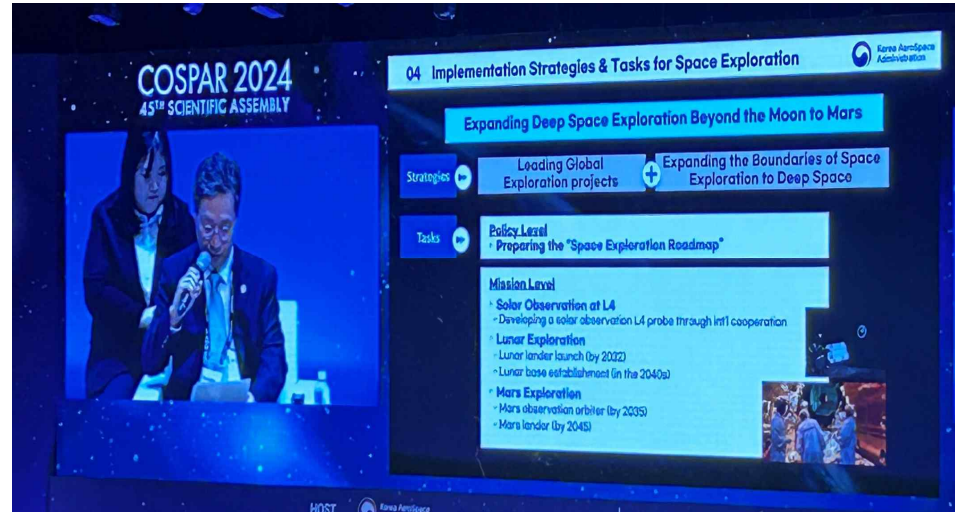
정책

우주청, NASA와 L4 탐사 미션 개념 공동 연구 나선다

2024.09.22 14:00



윤영빈 우주항공청 청장(왼쪽)이 빌 넬슨 미국항공우주국(NASA) 청장과 협약식을 체결하고 기념촬영을 하고 있다. 우주항공청 제공



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NATURE INDEX | 19 November 2024

Does South Korea have what it takes to become a leading space nation?

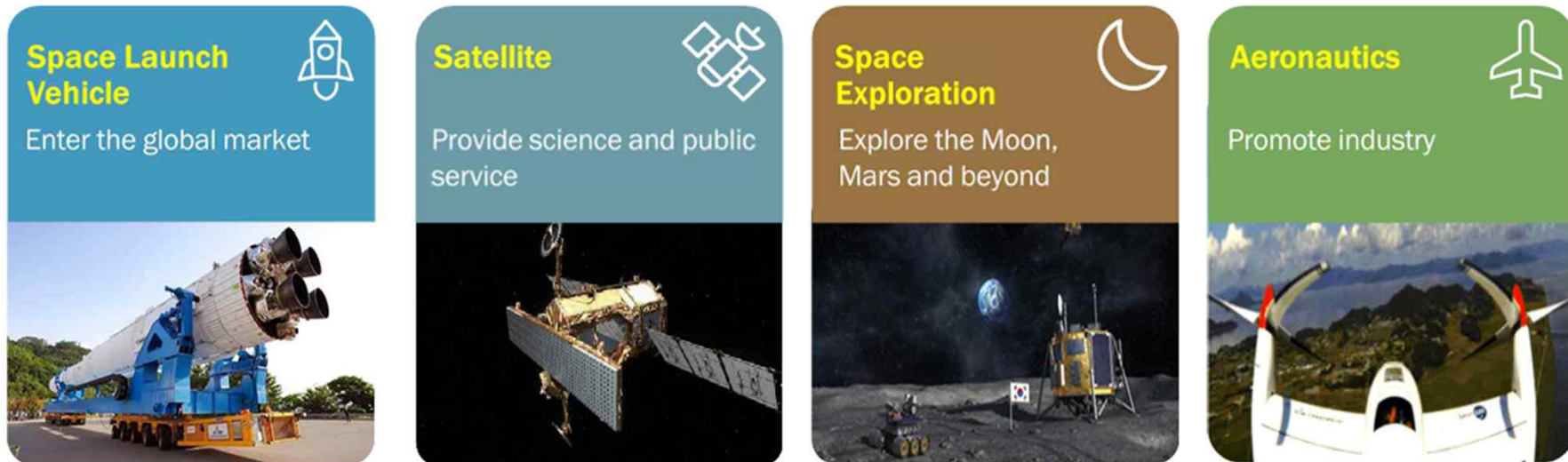
As the country forges global partnerships to boost its space ambitions, concerns mount over funding and private-sector support.

By [Raphael Rashid](#)

Strength in collaboration

International collaboration and expertise will be invaluable in South Korea's pursuit of space, particularly collaboration with the United States, [South Korea's most important research partner](#). KASA is collaborating with NASA on several projects, including the Artemis programme, which aims to send astronauts to the Moon. [In September, the two nations signed a joint statement of intent](#) for cooperation on aerospace activities, which could pave the way for further collaboration in areas such as lunar-surface activity and solar science, planetary and Earth sciences and the use of deep-space antennas. Additionally, they signed a separate agreement to jointly study potential missions to the L4 Lagrange point – [one of five known gravitationally stable locations in space](#) where spacecraft can remain in position using low levels of fuel.

KASA Policy Direction



According to the policy direction announced on Feb 14th 2025 by the 1st National Space Committee meeting, **the L4 Mission is one of the highest priorities** in KASA's space exploration initiatives.

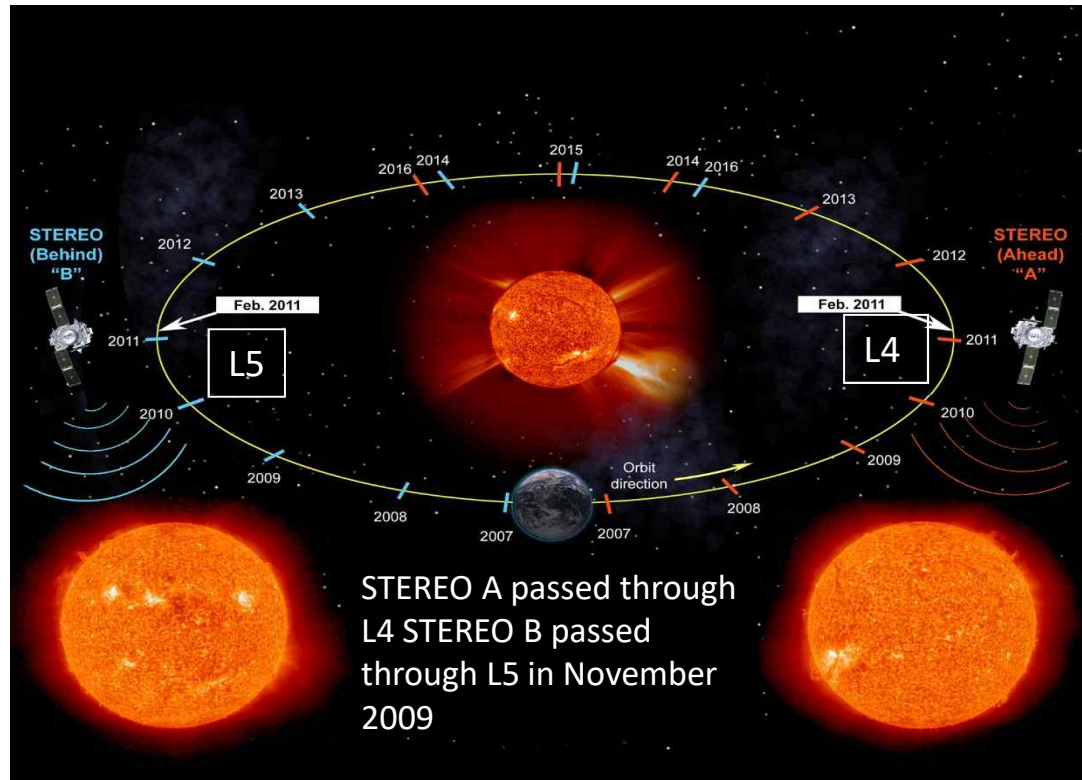
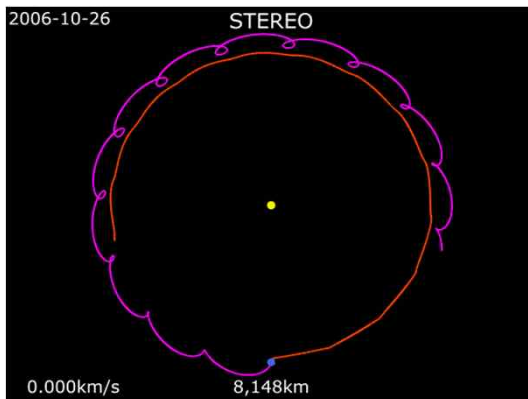
KASI is currently conducting a feasibility study of 'Korea-led L4 mission for Heliospheric Observation through international collaboration from 2023 to 2025.

Motivation: Lesson Learned from STEREO

Previous Project

→ Combined STEREO and SOHO observations determined that many particle events at Earth originate from the region behind the solar limb, best viewed from L4.

- Measuring magnetic properties of CMEs and solar wind structure is central to future Lagrange missions
- Would have done a lot more if it had magnetographs



Demonstrated the utility of observing the sun from vantage points off of the sun-earth line and the utility of the heliospheric imager concept from those vantage points.

Benefits: L5 vs. L5+L4

Potential Benefit	L1/Earth	L5+Earth	L4+Earth	L4+L5+Earth	Forecast/ science
Improved coverage of solar surface	~180° (50%)	~240° (66%)	~240° (66%)	~300° (83%)	Forecast and science
Early view of solar surface	0 days	4-5 days	(9-10 days)	4-5 days	Forecast
Better view of SEP source regions	No	No	Yes	Yes	Science
Better representation of polar fields	6(S) – 6(N)	4(S) – 4(S+N) – 4(N)	4(S) – 4(S+N) – 4(N)	2(S)-8(S+N)- 2(N)	Forecast and science
Improved SW forecast for planetary missions	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Forecast

Credit: COSPAR ILWS Report (2018)

Motivation: COSPAR ILWS Action Team Report (2024)

Science Benefits

Action Team on “**Promoting international collaboration in multi-vantage observations of the Sun, with a special focus on unique scientific advantages of L4+L5 combined observations.**”

Concluding Remarks

- ILWS Action Team on “Promoting international collaboration in multi-vantage observations of the Sun, with a special focus on unique scientific advantages of L4+L5 combined observations” had positive impact on promoting international collaboration in the important area of space weather research/operational forecasting.
- However, there is a general lack of funding for the international cooperation in heliophysics. How this collaborative effort could be funded, and what ILWS can do to ensure such funding?
- Some issues raised by the team will be continued via other channels (e.g. ISWCF and ISWAT)



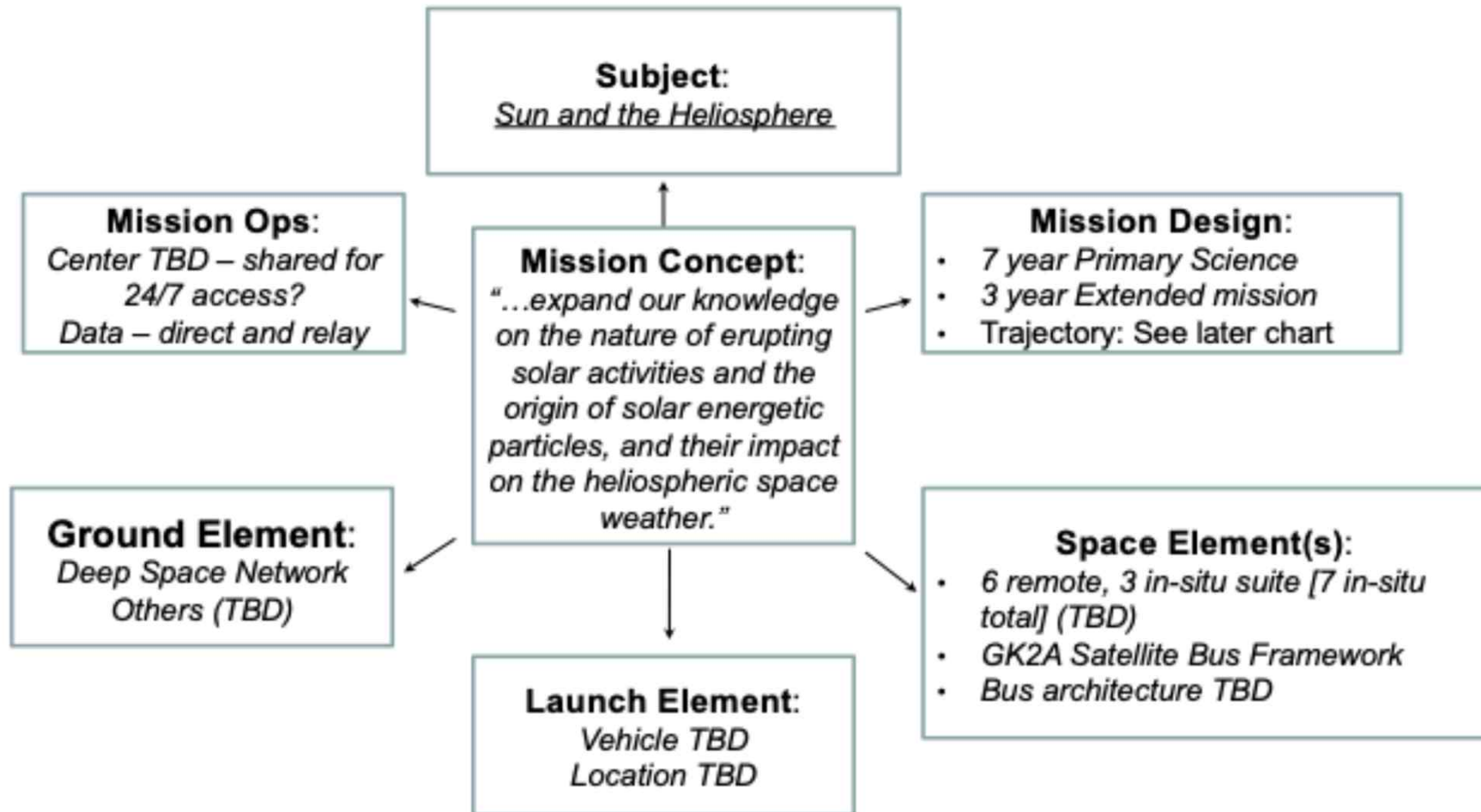
L4 Feasibility Study Roadmap



- Goal: Prepare Proposal to be submitted to Korean Space Agency
- Purpose: Develop analysis, plans, and strategy to receive a approval to proceed with the L4 mission
 - : Discuss at NASA-KASI Working Group meetings regarding L4 science and payload collaboration
 - : Review technical capability of domestic payloads, satellites, launch vehicles, etc
 - : Propose unique Korean payloads for L4.
 - : Secure international partners or develop strategies to develop domestically
 - : Select which elements of L4 should be developed domestically
(e.g. Payloads + Satellites + Launch vehicles)

L4 Mission Architecture

Mission Architecture



L4 Science Requirement

(L4 mission's science requirements document)

Overview of L4 Science Requirements				
Major Science Themes	Major Open Questions	Science Objectives	Measurements Required from L4	Relevant Science Payloads
1. Space weather in the heliosphere	(Q1-1) Sun - Which solar activities need to be explored to better understand and predict adverse space weather in the heliosphere?	(O1-1) Investigating solar source regions based on continuous observations from a stable point off the Sun-Earth line (assoc. with Q1-1,Q1-2,Q1-3)	(M1-1) Inferring the magnetic field and plasma properties of solar source regions and their evolution	Photospheric Vector Magnetograph, H-alpha Imaging Spectrograph, EUV Imager, X-ray Spectrometer
	(Q1-2) Heliosphere - How can we broaden our understanding of the heliospheric environment with multi-point observations?	(O1-2) Investigating the heliospheric disturbances driven by solar eruptive events such as flares, CMEs, SEPs and CIRs (assoc. with Q1-1,Q1-2,Q1-3)	(M1-2) Identifying and characterizing solar eruptive events and the consequent space weather conditions	Photospheric Vector Magnetograph, H-alpha Imaging Spectrograph, EUV Imager, Coronagraph, Helispheric Imager, X-ray Spectrometer, FIELDS, Solar Wind Plasma Detector, Energetic Particle Detector
	(Q1-3) Forecast - How can we enhance space weather forecasting capabilities?	(O1-3) Investigating the nominal heliospheric environment: solar wind, electric and magnetic fields, dust particles (assoc. with Q1-2,Q1-3) (O1-4) Improving the accuracy of space weather forecasting models through multi-point observations (assoc. with Q1-1,Q1-2,Q1-3)	(M1-3) Monitoring the heliospheric environment: solar wind, electric and magnetic fields, dust particles	FIELDS, Solar Wind Plasma Detector, Energetic Particle Detector, Dust Detector
2. Magnetized plasma structures erupting from the Sun: initiation and dynamic evolution	(Q2-1) How do solar eruptions form, accelerate and evolve through the solar corona and the inner heliosphere?	(O2-1) Physical properties of flare-CME productive active regions and Initiation of CMEs (assoc. with Q3-1,Q3-2)	(M2-1) Deriving the characteristics of CME-productive solar active regions	Photospheric Vector Magnetograph, H-alpha Imaging Spectrograph, EUV Imager, Coronagraph, X-ray Spectrometer
	(Q2-2) What are the three-dimensional characteristics of CMEs? How do CMEs evolve and propagate in the interplanetary space?	(O2-2) Tracking 3D CMEs propagation and evolution (assoc. with Q3-1,Q3-2,Q3-3)	(M2-2) Determining the 3D propagation and evolution of CMEs from the Sun into interplanetary space	Coronagraph, Helispheric Imager, FIELDS, Solar Wind Plasma Detector, Energetic Particle Detector
	(Q2-3) How do global and small-scale structures of the solar wind plasma form in the inner heliosphere?	(O2-3) Global and local structures of heliospheric plasma (assoc. with Q3-2,Q3-3)	(M2-3) 1-AU magnetized plasma structures and properties from large to small scales	FIELDS, Solar Wind Plasma Detector, Energetic Particle Detector, Helispheric Imager
3. Solar energetic particles: origin, properties and propagation characteristics	(Q3-1) Injection - What are the seed populations for energetic particles? How and where are the seed particle populations injected into the acceleration mechanism (i.e., the birthplace of SEPs)?	(O3-1) Statistical analysis of event-to-event variations in SEP properties (assoc. with Q2-1,Q2-2,Q2-3)	(M3-1) Remote-sensing observations of geoeffective SEP source regions (assoc. with O2-1)	Photospheric Vector Magnetograph, H-alpha Imaging Spectrograph, EUV Imager, Coronagraph, Helispheric Imager, X-ray Spectrometer
	(Q3-2) Acceleration - how and where are energetic particles accelerated at the Sun and in the interplanetary medium?	(O3-2) Extreme SEP events: origin and radiation impact on the heliosphere (assoc. with Q2-1,Q2-2,Q2-3)	(M3-2) Deriving the physical properties of SEP-related solar eruptions (assoc. with O2-1,O2-2,O2-3)	Photospheric Vector Magnetograph, H-alpha Imaging Spectrograph, EUV Imager, Coronagraph, Helispheric Imager, X-ray Spectrometer

Science Traceability Matrix

Major Science Themes	Major Open Questions	Science Objectives	Measurements Required from L4	Relevant Science Payloads														
				PVM	CHRIS	EUVI	WLCC	HI	CXIS	FGM	SCM	RPW	SWPD	HEPD	RM	DD		
1. Space weather	(Q1-1) Solar activities	(O1-1) Solar source regions (Q1-1-3)	(M1-1) Magnetic field and plasma properties	X	X	X			X									
	(Q1-2) Heliospheric environment	(O1-2) Flares, CMEs, SEPs and CIRs (Q1-1-3)	(M1-2) Their characteristics	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	(Q1-3) Forecast	(O1-3) Nominal heliospheric environment (Q1-2-3)	(M1-3) Monitoring the heliospheric environment															
		(O1-4) Space weather forecasting models (Q1-1-3)							X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
2. CME	(Q2-1) Solar eruptions	(O2-1) CME initiation (Q3-1-2)	(M2-1) Solar active regions	X	X	X	X	X										
	(Q2-2) CMEs' structure, evolution, and propagation	(O2-2) 3D CME propagation and evolution (Q3-1-3)	(M2-2) 3D CME propagation and evolution				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	(Q2-3) Global and small-scale structures of heliospheric plasma	(O2-3) Global and local structures of solar wind plasma (Q3-2-3)	(M2-3) Plasma structures and properties at 1 AU					X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3. SEP	(Q3-1) Generation of SEPs	(O3-1) SEP properties (Q2-1-3)	(M3-1) SEP source regions (O2-1)	X	X	X	X	X	X									
	(Q3-2) Acceleration of SEPs	(O3-2) Origin and radiation impact (Q2-1-3)	(M3-2) Properties of solar eruptions (O2-1-3)	X	X	X	X	X	X									
	(Q3-3) Transport of SEPs	(O3-3) Energization and propagation of SEPs (Q2-1-3)	(M3-3) Contribution to the radiation environment (O2-1-3)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

	Measurement Requirements	Mission Requirements
Remote Sensing	Photospheric Vector Magnetograph (PVM) Fe I; full-disk	Precise Attitude for Remote Sensing Payloads Low-noise environment for precise magnetic field measurements Unique perspective of Sun's western side Long lifetime for solar cycle activities
	CHRomospheric Imaging Spectrograph (CHRIS) H α ; full-disk	
	Extreme UltraViolet Imager (EUVI) 13.3, 17.1, 19.3, 30.4 nm; <6 Rs	
	White-Light Compact Coronagraph (WLCC) White light; 3.0-23.5 Rs	
	Heliospheric Imager (HI) White light; FOVs: 30° and 50°	
FIELDS	Compact X-ray Imaging Spectrometer (CXIS) X-ray; full Sun	Handle a large number of payloads and their datas Enable near-realtime data handling for solar weather forecasting purposes
	Fluxgate Magnetometer (FGM) Magnetic field 3 comp.; DC to 128 Hz	
	Search Coil Magnetometer (SCM) Magnetic field 3 comp.; <55 kHz	
PARTICLES	Radio and Plasma Wave Detector (RPW) Electric field 3 comp.; DC to 16 MHz	
	Solar Wind Plasma Detector (SWPD) Ions and electrons; 1 eV - 30 keV	
	High Energy Particle Detector (HEPD) Ions (30 keV - 100 MeV/nuc) and electrons (30 keV - 2 MeV)	
Dust	Radiation Monitor (RM) Protons (1-500 MeV) and electrons (0.2-1,000 keV/ μ m)	
	Dust Detector (DD) Dust grains >50 nm	

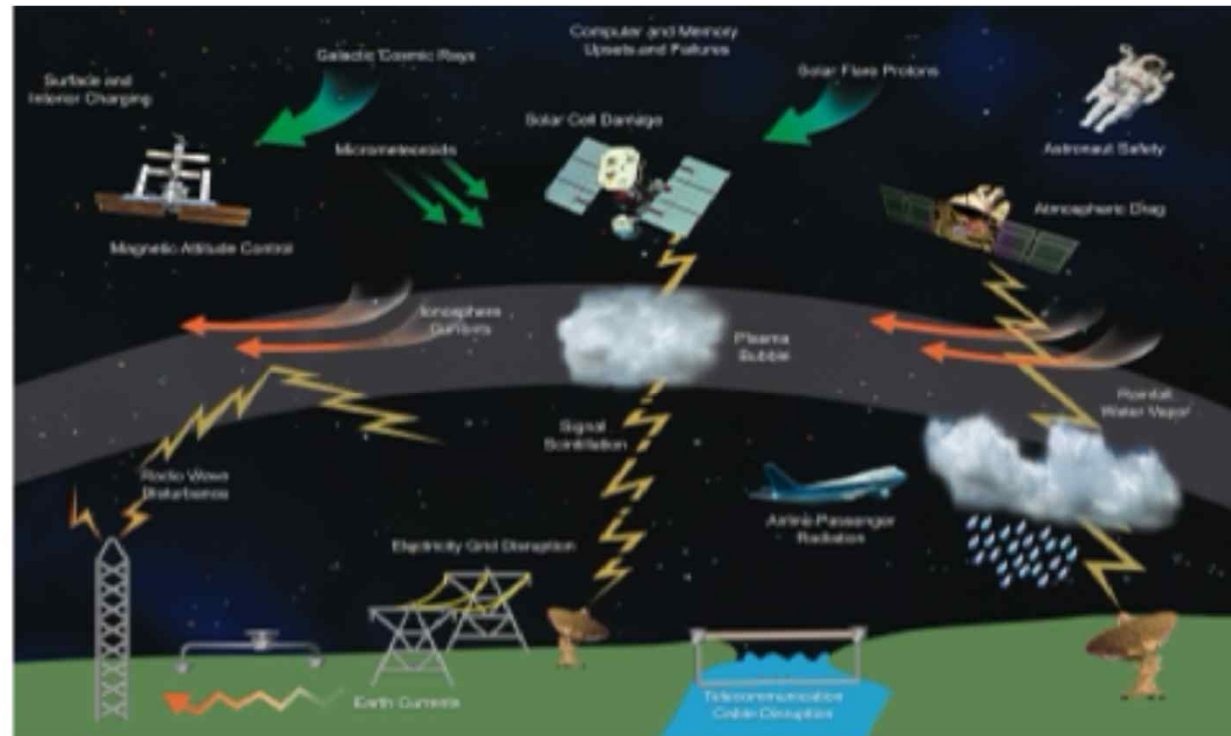
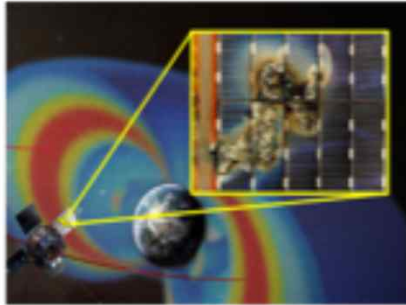


Scientific & Social Benefits



Benefits: More reliable Space Weather Forecasting

Science Benefits

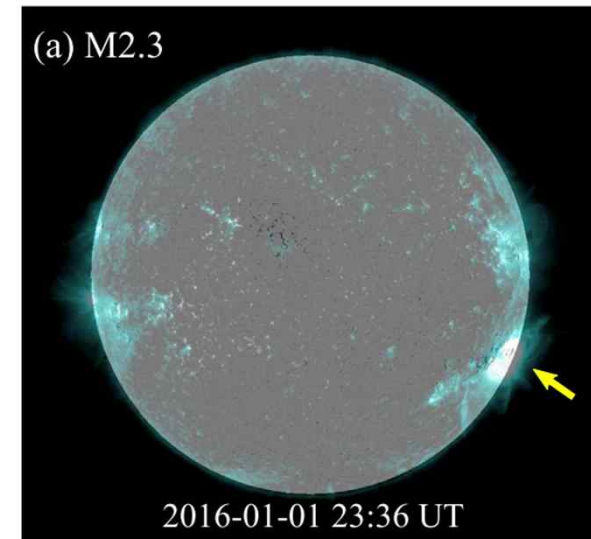
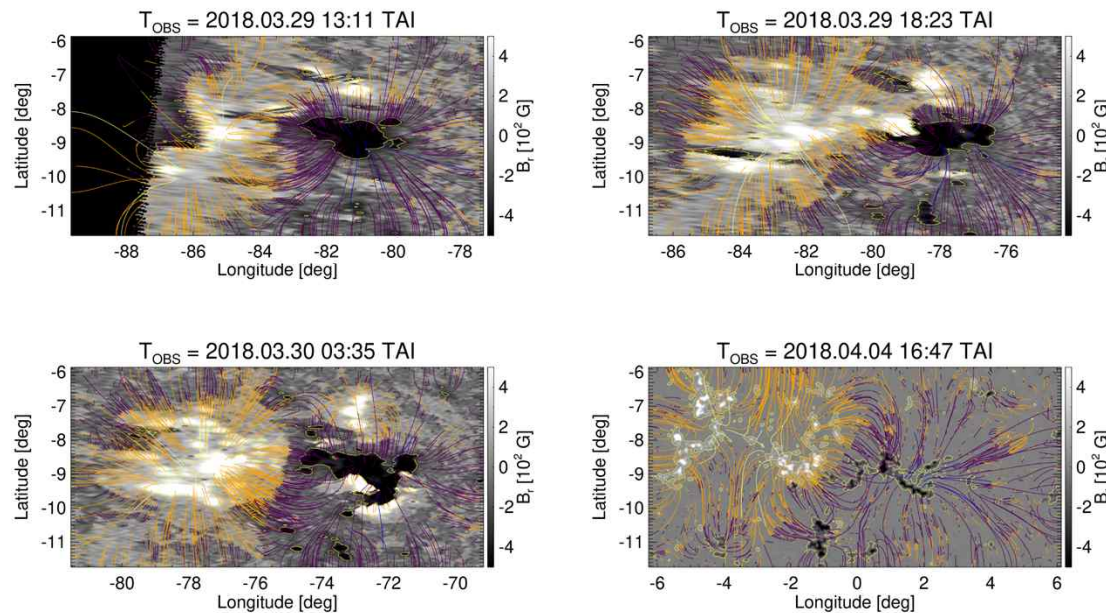


- Forecasts are used to support activities that are impacted by space weather such as electric power transmission, satellite operation, humans in space, navigation, and communication.
- **Probability of accurately forecasting of solar flares and geomagnetic storms is very low.**
- The L4 mission will significantly contribute to improve space weather forecasting capability.

For Example: Flare Forecasting

Science Benefits

Effect of SDO/HMI Radial Magnetic Field Map Projections



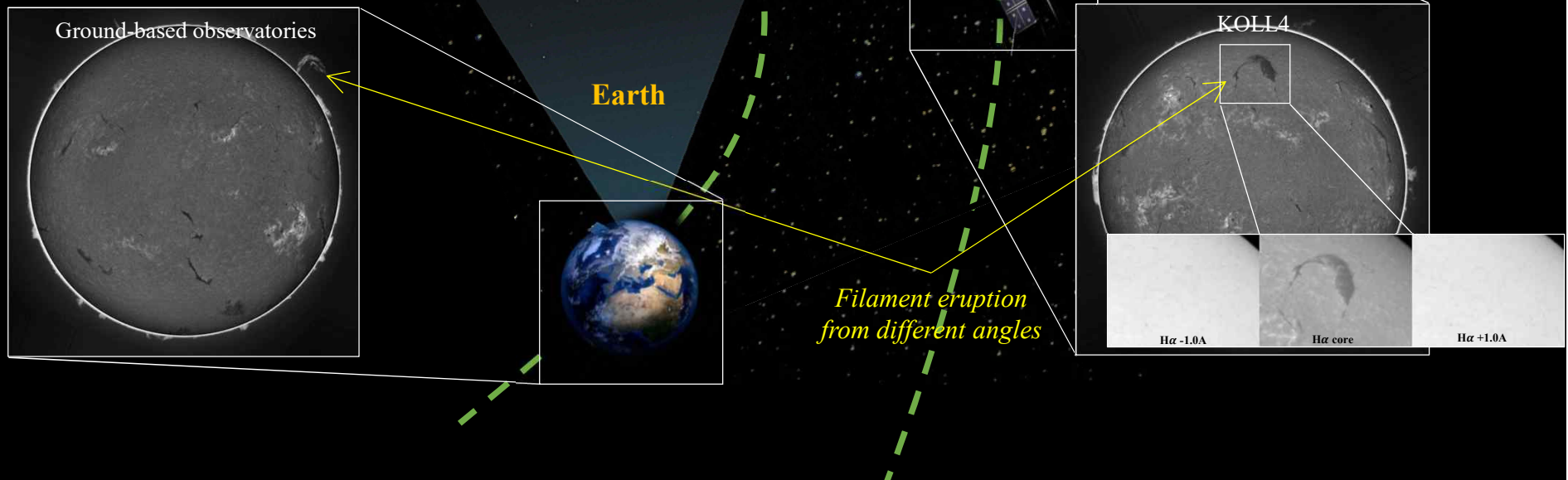
- 2017: International Workshop on Solar Flare Forecast Model Evaluation by ISEE
- Performance evaluation of a total of 19 flare forecast models (including U.S./NOAA, U.K. Meteorological Office, Japan/NICT, etc.)
- During the 2016-2017 evaluation period, all models failed to forecast for 15% of the total number of M-class or higher flares.
- All correspond to flares that occurred at the edge
- **L4 can help better prediction of such flares**

Benefits: Direct Observations the Source Region of SPE

Space Weather 

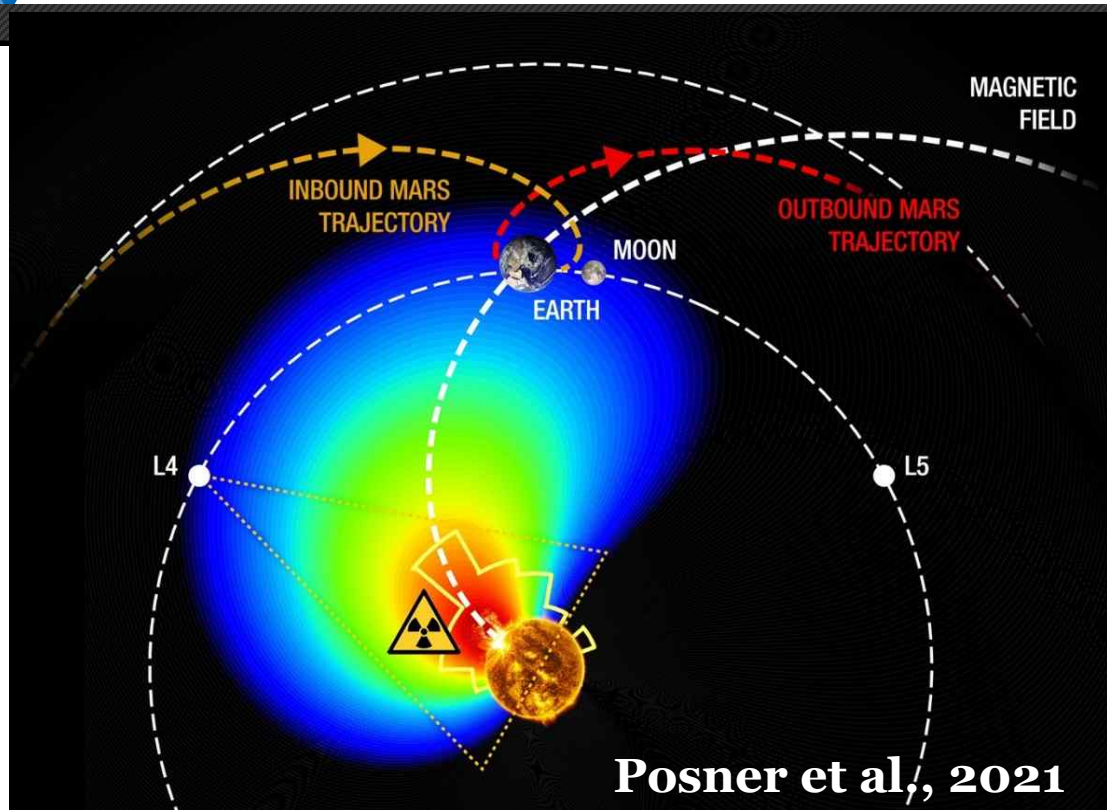
III. Reveals the three-dimensional structures of erupting solar activities (filaments/prominences) through the coordination with ground-based and space-borne telescopes

- I.** Uninterrupted observations of dynamics and evolution of solar filaments
- II.** Monitor the SEP source region at the early phase of the solar eruptions.

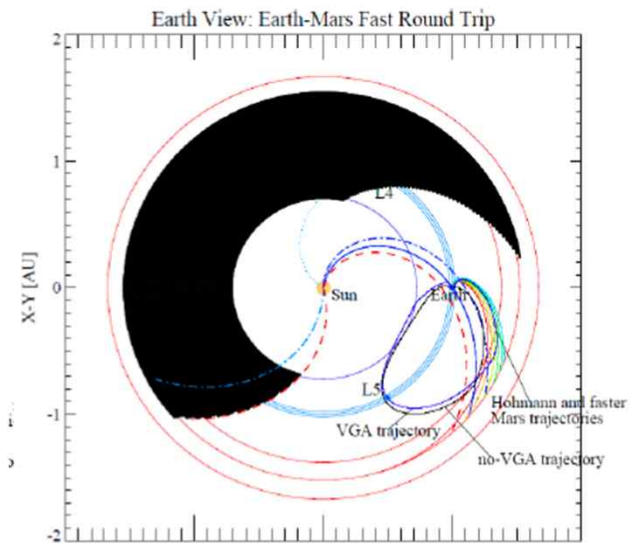


Benefits: Speed up Solar radiation detection

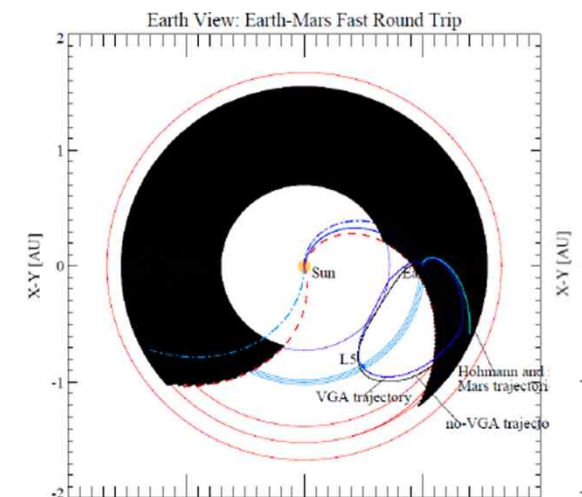
Science Benefits



- L4 is a meta-stable locations at 1 AU and the best location for a solar remote sensing observatory that would **oversee the entire solar radiation hemisphere**.
- The unusual attribute of L4 is that it covers entire “Solar Radiation Hemisphere” that is relevant for M2M architecture.



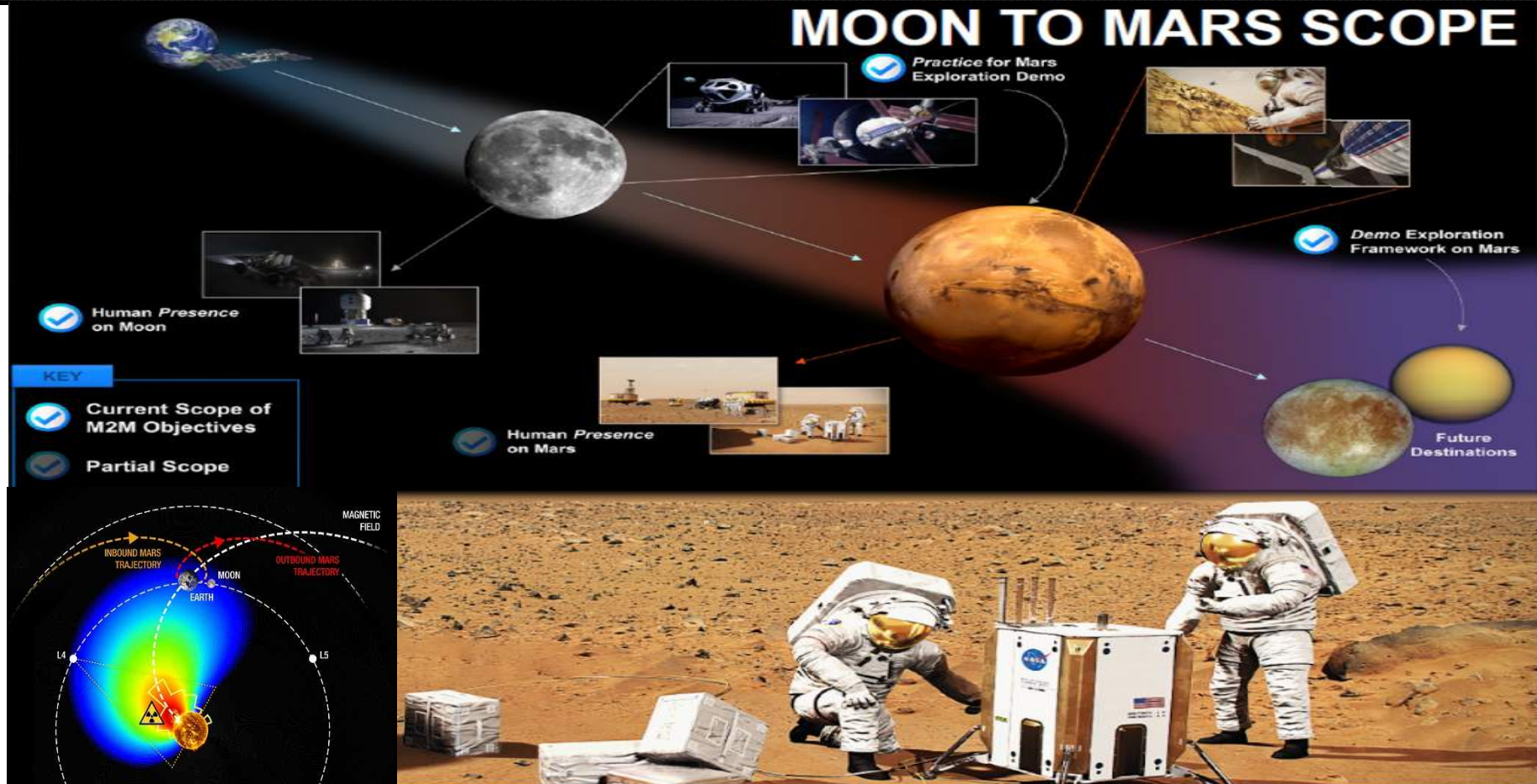
SWx Safety Zone supported by L1 and L4₁



SWx Safety Zone supported by L1 on¹⁷

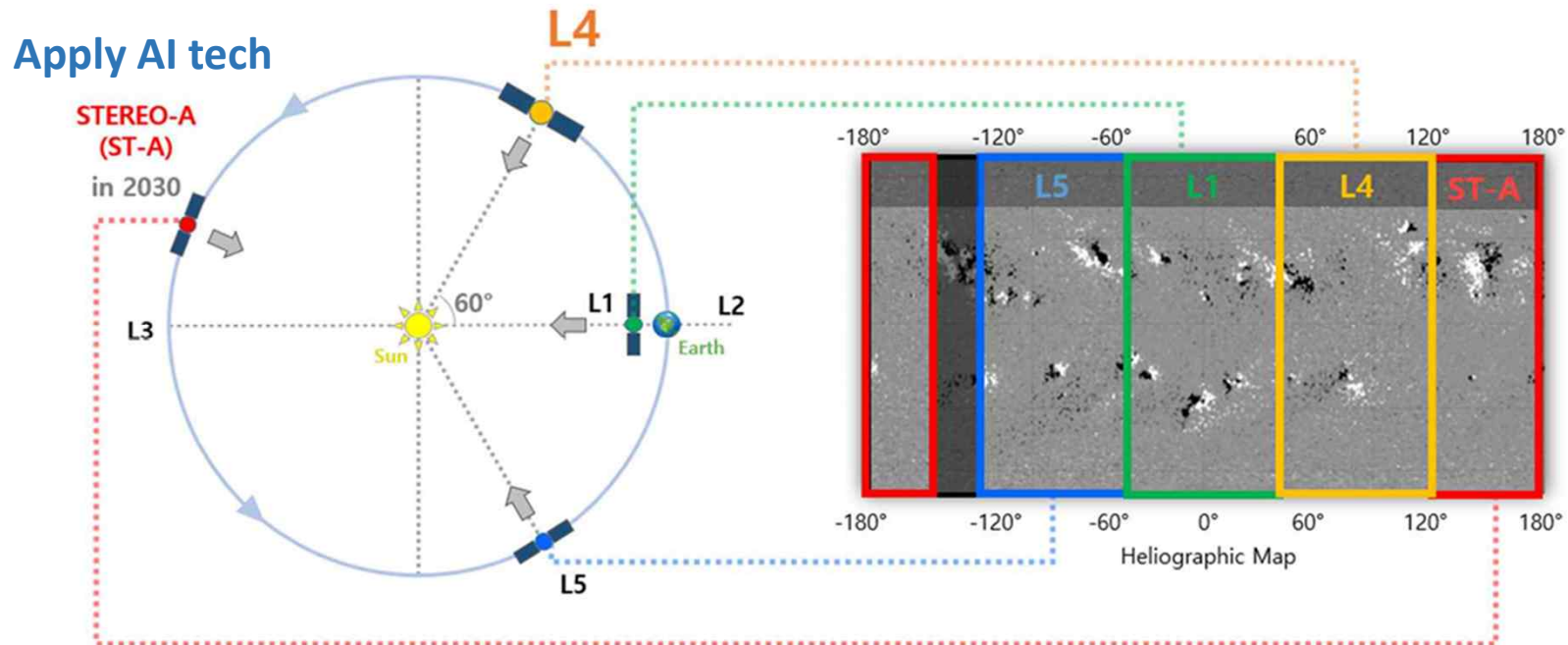
Benefits: Expanding of Space Weather to M2M

Science Benefits



- Through continuous observation of the heliosphere at the L4 position, we can provide more **reliable space weather forecast and space radiation environment information** for deep space exploration to the Moon and Mars.

Opportunity for **New Science**: OSEL Mission



More reliable synoptic map from multi-view observations

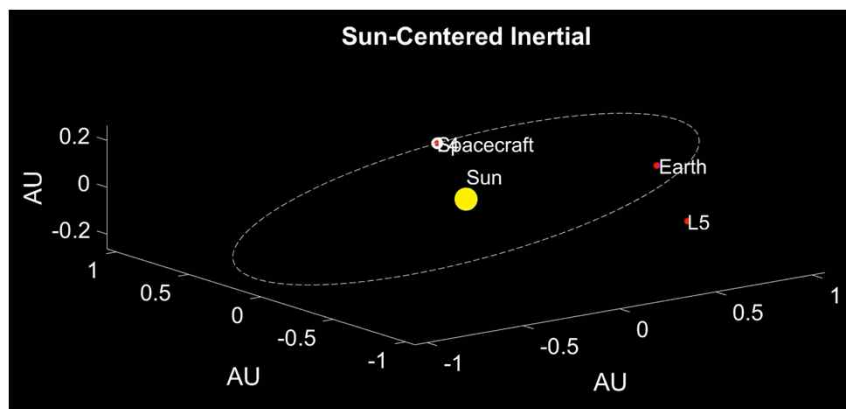
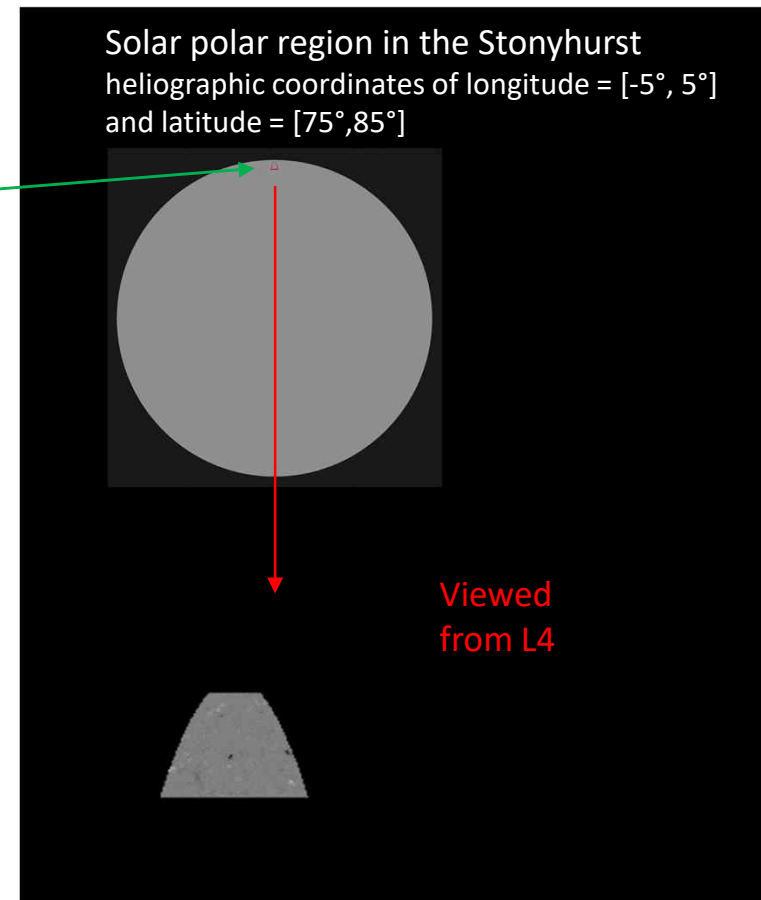
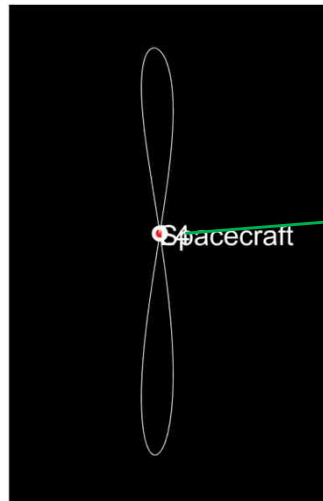
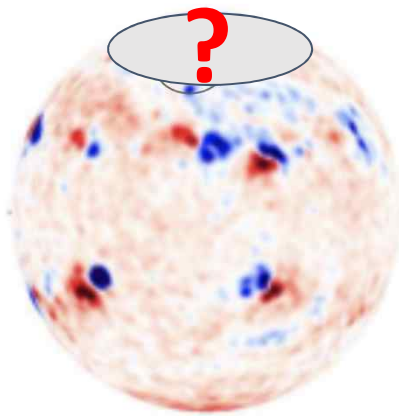
: The L4 mission will contribute to generate a near real-time synoptic map constructed from multi-viewpoint observations of the photospheric vector magnetic field at L4 + L1, L5, and ground.

Contributing to Sun's Polar Observation

Science Benefits

Seeing solar polar region

: L4, in coordination with ESA/NASA Solar Orbiter, will open new science that has never been studied in detail before such as **the structure of the Sun's polar region, large scale flows from the Sun's low latitude to high latitude, and the evolution of the solar magnetic fields and their effect on the next solar cycle**

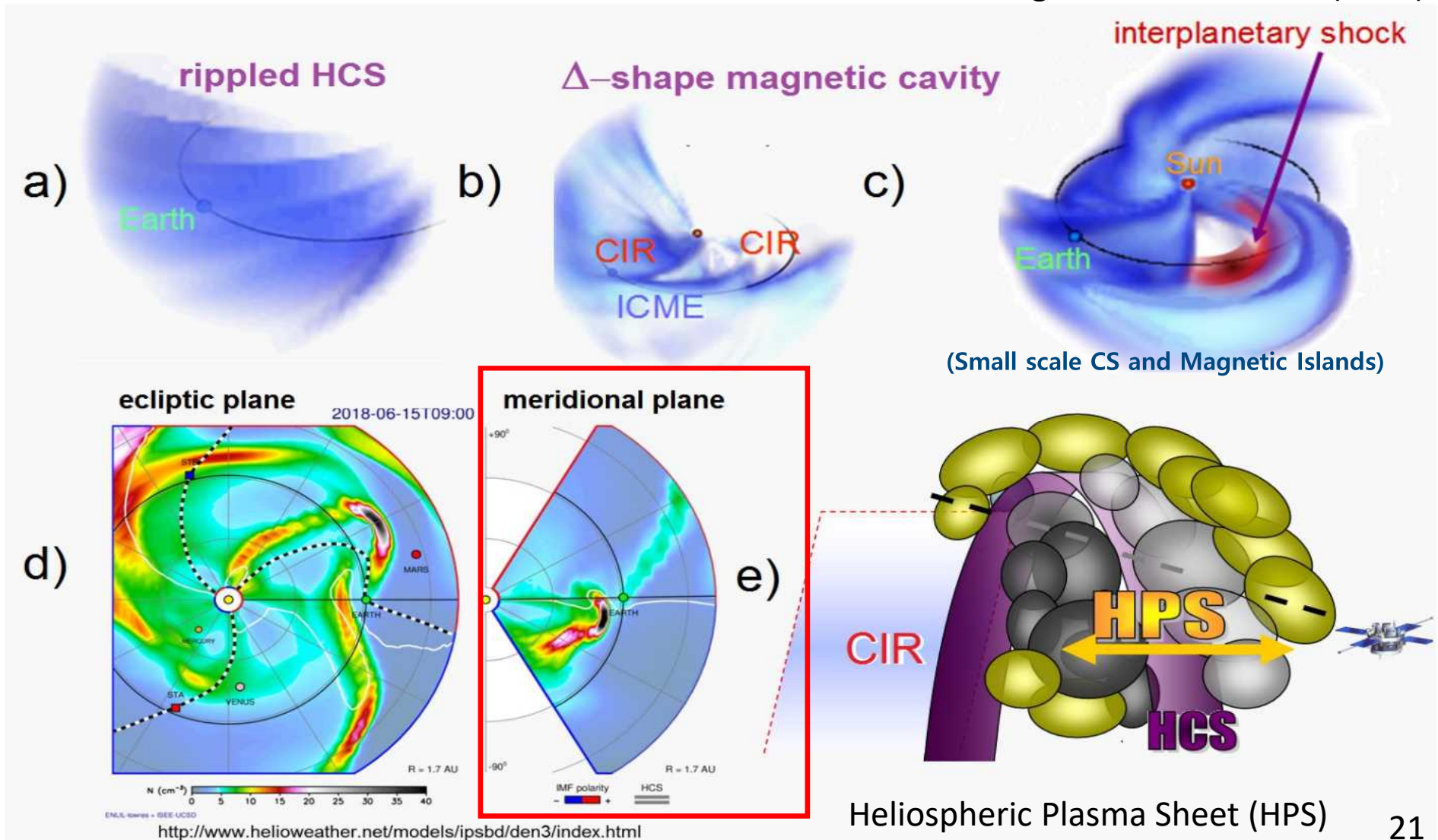


Benefits: 3D Heliospheric Structure

Science Benefits

Contribute to understand 3D Heliospheric Structure

Olga Khabarova et al., (2021)



References of the L4 Mission

Science Publications

JKAS

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Opening New Horizons with the L4 Mission: Vision and Plan

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Scientific Perspectives of the Heliophysics L4 Mission by Remote-Sensing Observations

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Long-Term Science Goals with *In Situ* Observations at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L4

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Space Weather*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1029/2024SW004182

Key Points:

- Multi-spacecraft at the Sun-Earth Lagrange points provide unique opportunities to conduct coordinated, multi-view observations of the Sun
- The visibility of the Sun is analyzed using remote-sensing from single (L1), double (L1, L4), and multiple (L1, L4 and L5) spacecraft
- The analysis is focused on the solar surface coverage as a function of solar latitude and the availability of specific observation scenarios

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Visibility Analysis of the Sun as Viewed From Multiple Spacecraft at the Sun-Earth Lagrange Points

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Abstract Spacecraft equipped with solar telescopes are planned for deployment at various vantage points in the heliosphere to conduct coordinated, multi-view observations of the Sun and its dynamic activities. We investigate solar visibility using imaging instruments aboard spacecraft stationed at the Sun-Earth Lagrange points L1, L4 and L5. First, the optimal arrival time for vertical periodic orbits at L4 and L5 is determined on the basis of geometric factors that maximize the visibility of the solar poles and higher latitudes. For different orbits around L1, L4 and L5, we calculate the visibility of the solar surface (i.e., observation days per year) as a function of solar latitude. Additionally, we analyze how the solar limb observed from one Lagrange point aligns with the solar surface visible from the other two points, with a focus on studying solar eruptions like flares and coronal mass ejections. This analysis aims to assess the feasibility of coordinated observations of off-disk erupting structures and their on-disk magnetic footprints. Furthermore, we evaluate the improvement in continuous tracking of solar features, such as sunspots, with multiple spacecraft in various orbital configurations. This tracking helps in studying the long-term evolution of these features, from emergence to decay. A comprehensive comparison of observations from single (L1), double (L1 and L4), and multiple spacecraft (L1, L4 and L5) is conducted, aiding the design of future space missions involving solar observatories at the Sun-Earth Lagrange points.



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Payload & Spacecraft



Science Payloads

Remote Instruments L5 instruments

	Size (L×W×H) (cm)	Weight (kg)	Power (W)	Spatial Resolution (arcsec)	Time Cadence (min)	Telemetry (kbps)
Photospheric VMG	70×40×50	23	40	2	<30	60
H α Imaging Spectrograph	70×40×50	23	40	2–5	≤5	60
EUV Imager	70×20×20	30	35	~8	2–10	70
WL Coronagraph	90×50×50	22	14.2	65	15	38.7
Heliosphere Imager	60×40×50	16.5	13.5	360	15–60	70
X-ray Spectrometer	30×30×30	15	15	1–5 keV @ 1–150 keV	1 sec	40
Total	—	129.5	157.7	—	—	338.7

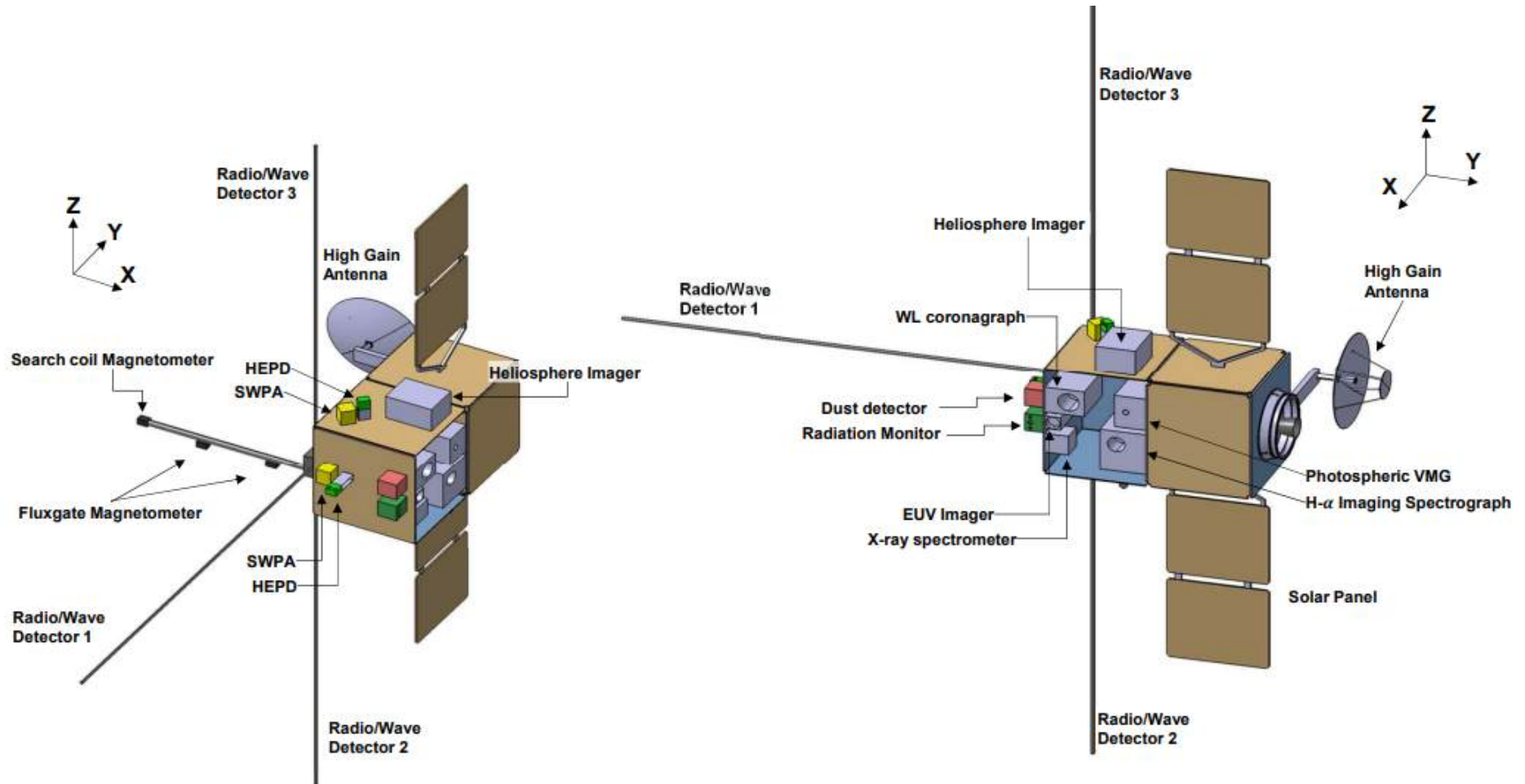
In-situ Instruments Particle package Field Package

	Size (L×W×H) (cm)	Weight (kg)	Power (W)	Time Resolution	Measurement Resolution	Telemetry (kbps)
Solar Wind Plasma Analyzer (SWPA)	20×20×25	3.75	5	30 sec	$\Delta E/E < 20\%$	4
High Energy Particle Detector (HEPD)	10×15.6×14.7	5	5	1 min	$\Delta E/E < 20\%$	4
Fluxgate Magnetometer	Boom: 300×10×15	7.2	13	32 Hz	0.1 nT	0.4
Search Coil Magnetometer	Boom: 300×10×15	1.8	1.4	0.1–0.4 kHz	<1 pT @ 10 Hz	0.24
Radiation Monitor (RM)	27×27×27	7.5	5.1	1 sec	<10%	0.4
Radio/Wave Detector	600×2.5×2.5	10	5.6	16 sec	16 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$	4.5
Dust Detector	30×30×30	12.5	25	—	$\Delta M/M = 100\text{--}200$	0.2 (12.6 MB/week)
Total	—	47.75	60.1	—	—	13.74

L4 Spacecraft



Spacecraft



Concept design based on the GEO-KOMSAT platform

Mission Design (Preliminary)



Spacecraft

POI; Phasing Orbit Insertion

Inclination: 10° Delta V: 1.954
km/s Launch '35.3



SK; Station Keeping

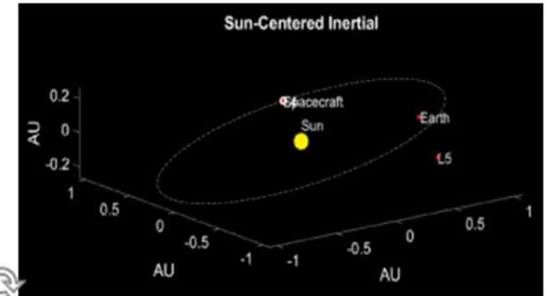


MCC1, MCC2; Mid Course Correction

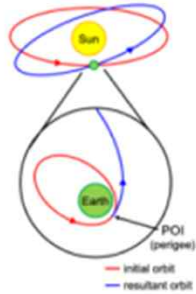


COI; Circular Orbit

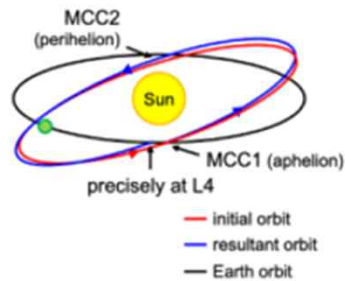
Insertion



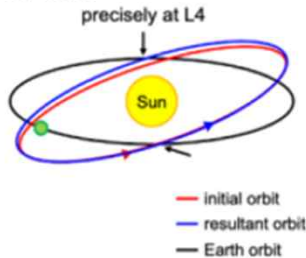
1: POI



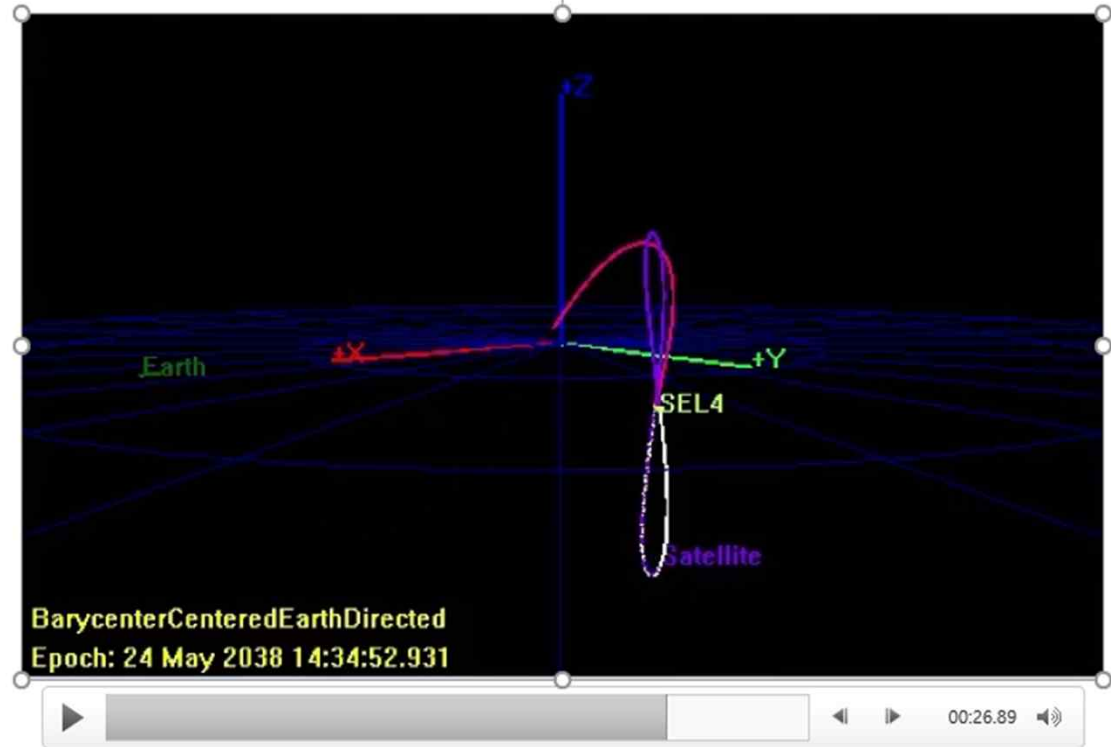
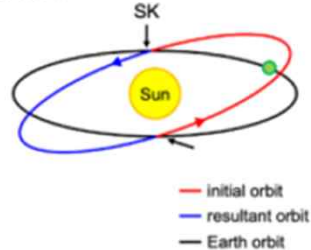
2: MCC 1&2



3: COI



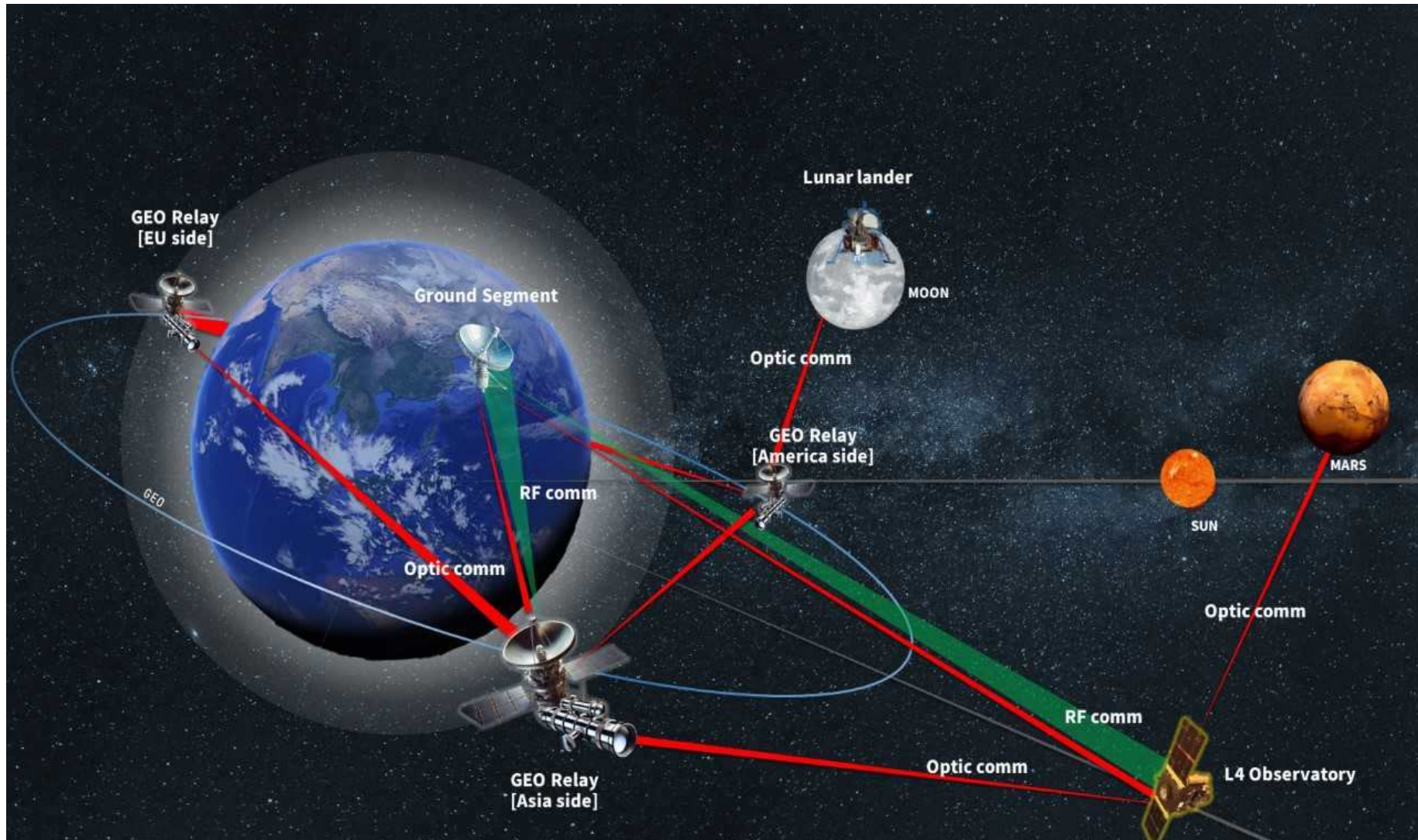
4: SK



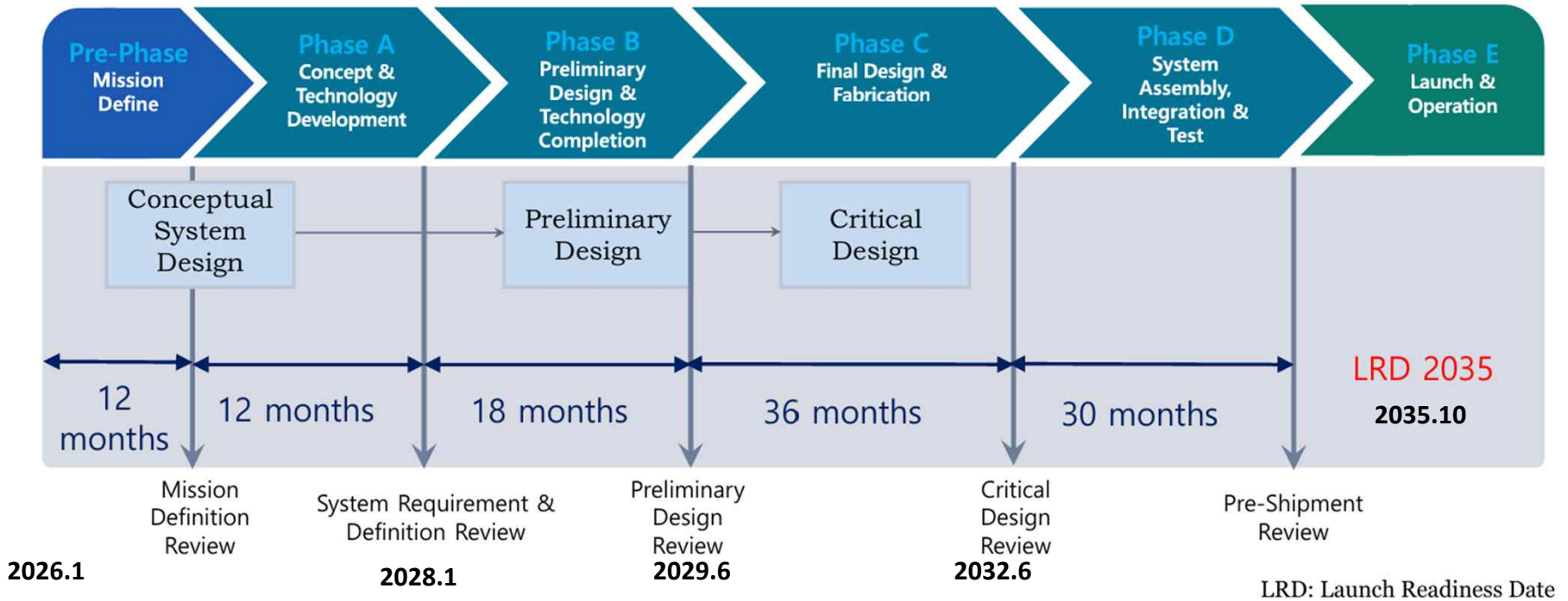
Courtesy: Dr. Jinsung Lee, KAIST

KASA DSOC Concept (TBD)

RF Communicaion



Roadmap





International Collaboration





International Collaborations (TBD)

● NASA

- Align with the Decadal Survey
- Collaborate with Sun CHASER and MOST
- LOI for Solar EUV instrument from NASA/JPL
- Contribute NASA's Deep Space Networking for downlinking data from the mission
- Study for L4 contribution to M2M

● NOAA

- Completed the Letter Of Intent (LOI) between KASI and NOAA/NESDI for a Compact Solar coronagraph
- Share science and operation data
- Use of NOAA's ground stations for downlinking (possibly)

● ESA

- Align with the L5 mission and share science and operation data
- 32 m Antenna Conversion for L4 mission (Greece)

● Max Plank Institute (Solar System Research)

- Collaborate on Polarimetric and Helioseismic Imager (PHI)

● UK

- Collaborate on Heliosphere Imager (HI, RAL-SPACE)
- Collaborate on Solar wind detector (Electrostatic Analyzer, UCL)

● Japan

- Discuss with NAOJ, ISAS, Nagoya and Kyoto Universities
- Collaborate on Radio and Plasma Wave (RPW, CNES)

● Other nations

- Swiss: Find partner nations for dust detector

JPL Team-X at JPL, Feb 11 – 13, 2025

JPL Formulation - Finding the Optimal Solution for L4



KASA-NASA L4 SG Kick-off meeting at GSFC, March 11 – 14, 2025



Group1: Optical Comm



Group2: Space Weather



Group3: Space Radiation



KASA-NASA Study Group



Summary



Summary

- L4 Mission will advance heliophysics science and significantly improve space weather forecasting capability by providing continuous and unique observations of the heliosphere at the metastable vantage point.
- In-situ observations, combined with remote sensing, will significantly enhance the scientific value, given the high-performance capabilities of the instruments
- An inclined orbit for the L4 spacecraft will enable a diverse range of scientific investigations
- Combined with planned L1 and L5 missions, the L4 mission will produce unprecedented synergy for future human exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond.
- With Korean space weather community members, KASA will review the comprehensive technical readiness of L4 instruments, spacecraft, and launch vehicles of Korea, and will seeking for international partners.



Thank You

KASI 한국천문연구원
Korea Astronomy & Space Science Institute

