Solar power and energy storage for planetary missions

Can space power and energy storage help NASA learn about Earth?
The ability of space power and energy storage technologies to enable and enhance NASA's ability to learn about Earth and the solar system is illustrated by the following quotes from a recently completed decadal survey on planetary science (NRC, 2011):

Why is solar power important for space missions?
At the same time, escalating launch costs have forced spacecraft engineers to design lighter and more efficient power systems. According to this, space solar power requires technological improvements to achieve advanced performances and thus enhance new mission capabilities.

Which solar power system should be used for space missions?
The power system applicability will vary depending on the power levels needs and the duration of use,as shown in Fig. 1 (b) published by Patel in 2004 . For long missions and needs from 1 kW to 500 kW photovoltaic solar arraysare the solution. Fig. 1. a) Spacecraft subsystems.

Which spacecraft are powered by solar panels?
Nearly all spacecraftflown to date have been powered by solar arrays. Photovoltaic power systems provide the energy for NASA science missions in low Earth orbit (LEO),including the International Space Station (ISS) and higher altitude communication systems such as the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite Systems (TDRSS).

What is energy storage?
Energy Storage: Addressing the need for advanced storage systems that can work in tandem with photovoltaic technologies to provide reliable power during periods without sunlight, such as on the dark side of planets or during long-duration space missions. 5.

What are the planetary science and astrobiology missions needs?
It is estimated that many next-generation planetary science and astrobiology mission concepts will require solar cell efficiencies ~38% and specific power >200W/kgto fully meet their objectives1. The needs of planetary science and astrobiology missions and the technologies to address them are discussed below.

The goal of the study was to assess the potential of advanced energy storage technologies to enable and/or enhance next decade (2010-2020) NASA Space Science missions, and to define a roadmap for developing ...

Planetary Missions oNASA missions have unique requirements that span from terrestrial to outer planets oSome missions require high radiation resistant power systems ...

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Planetary science and astrobiology missions frequently share several key needs in common with commercial and defense space applications. Both can require high efficiency ...

solar power systems oFigure(top) shows the mass required to provide a continuous 100 watts at various orbital locations in the solar system oAssumes oArray always ...

Solar arrays have the advantage that they can be equally well utilized from watt-scale power systems to hundreds of watt sizes, and are the power system of choice for most ...

Micro-grid for Future Planetary Surface Needs 2020 Conference on Advanced Power Systems ... oPower strategy (generation / energy storage) will need to evolve over time. ...

Reduced Solar Energy Availability Solar energy has long been the reliable choice for in-space power applications, but solar array designs on Mars must account for reduced ...

PDF | On Mar 18, 2021, Gregory Carr and others published Power Electronic Technologies for Planetary Science and Astrobiology Missions | Find, read and cite all the research you need ...

NASA has many unique needs for space power and energy storage technologies that require special technology solutions due to extreme environmental conditions. For example, o Venus ...

The power system takes up about 20-30 % of spacecraft mass and 20 % of the budget and is largely used for power management distribution, power generation, and energy ...

Table 1: Types of missions and their energy storage performance targets Planetary science missions have key performance needs that are similar to the commercial and defense ...

Part I covers planetary mission design in general, as well as the estimation ... o Solar Power Technologies for Future Planetary Science Missions, Report No D-10136, ...

Aerospace power systems rely on a robust, efficient, and reliable power distribution system which safely moves electricity from the power sources and energy storage to the user loads. These systems must be much higher ...

Use of high-power solar arrays, at power levels ranging from ~500 KW to several megawatts, has been proposed as the power source for solar-electric propulsion (SEP) ...

covers planetary mission design in general, as well as the estimation and control of vehicle flight ... o Solar Power Technologies for Future Planetary Science Missions, Report No ...

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Assess the status of advanced energy storage technologies currently under development at NASA, DOD, DOE and Industry and assess their potential capabilities and ...

The study report is organized into five major sections: 1) study overview, 2) potential solar power system needs of future planetary science missions, 3) capabilities and limitations of state-of-practice (SOP) space solar ...

Single-junction flat-plate terrestrial solar cells are fundamentally limited to about 30% solar-to-electricity conversion efficiency, but multiple junctions and concentrated light ...

RPS enable missions with destinations far from the Sun with faint solar flux, on planetary surfaces with dense or dusty atmospheres, and at places with long eclipse periods where solar array ...

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