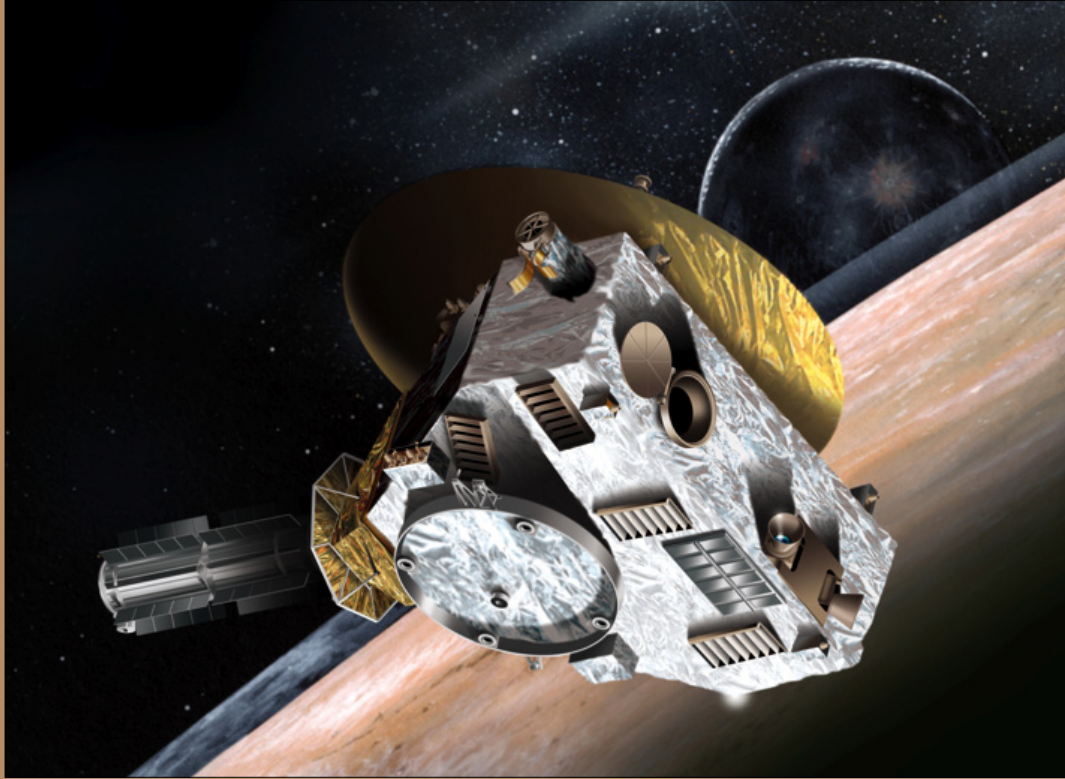


New Horizons: Student Dust Counter (SDC)

PI: Mihaly Horanyi

Launched: January 19, 2006

Measuring Dust from Earth to Beyond Pluto



New Horizons will help us understand worlds at the edge of our solar system by making the first reconnaissance of Pluto and Charon - a "double planet" and the last planet in our solar system to be visited by spacecraft. Then, as part of an extended mission, New Horizons will visit one or more objects in the Kuiper Belt region beyond Neptune.



The Student Dust Counter is the first student-built instrument ever to fly on a NASA planetary mission. It will take the first measurements of dust distribution beyond 18 AU. With guidance from LASP professionals, the SDC team of graduate and undergraduate students designed, built, and tested the instrument, and students will continue to run the SDC for at least another decade, performing operations and data analysis as their instrument journeys toward the edge of the solar system.



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