



The Near-Earth Object (NEO) Surveyor

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NEO Surveyor Survey Data System Lead Scientist



NEO Surveyor Project Overview

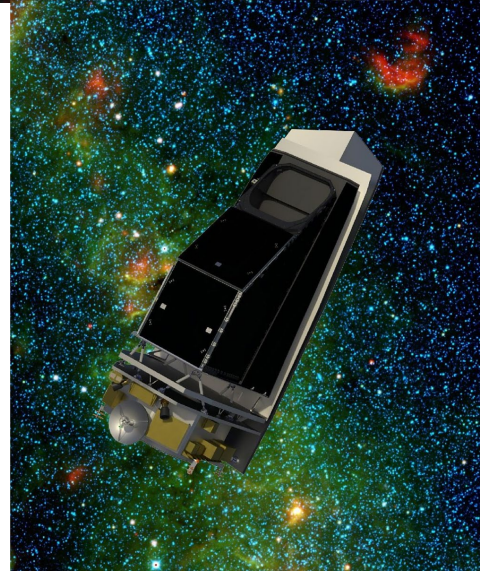


Salient features:

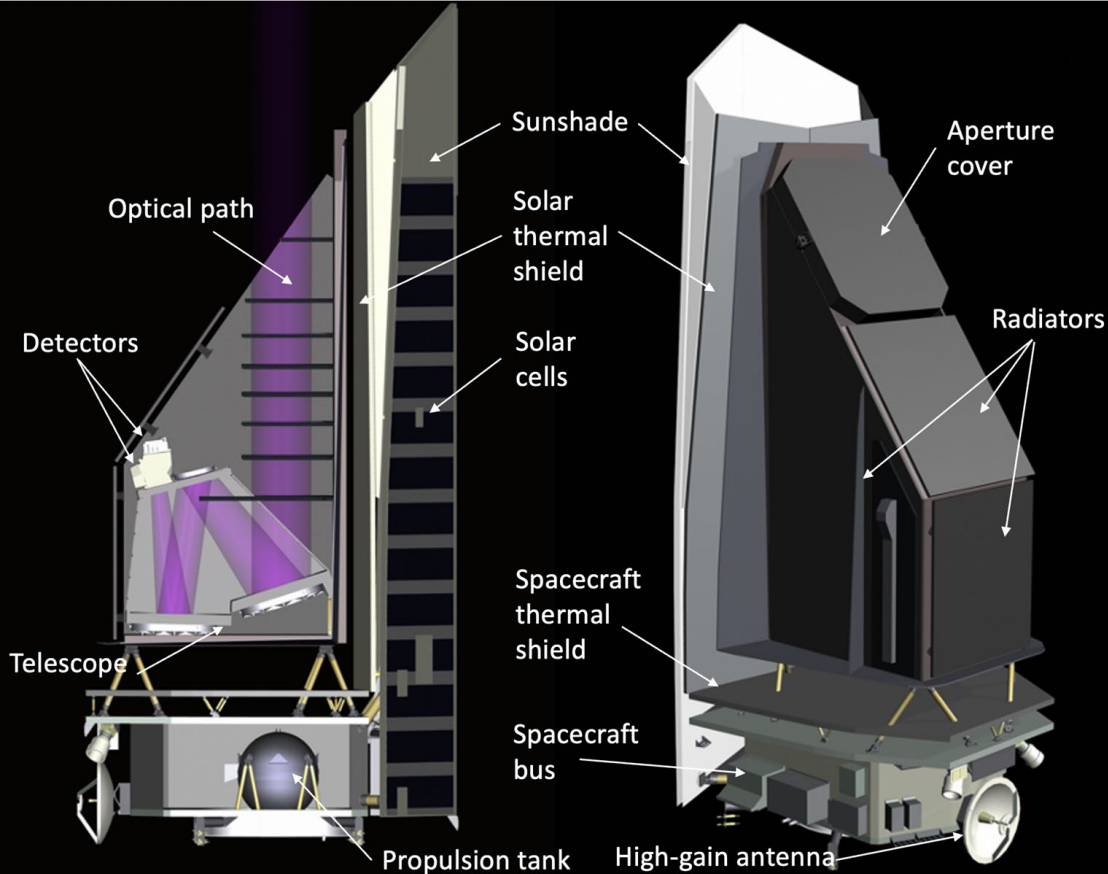
- NEO Surveyor is a planetary defense mission that entered Phase C on November 29, 2022
- Key NASA priority to detect, track, and characterize impact hazards from asteroids and comets
- Will make significant progress toward George E. Brown, Jr. NEO Survey Act (Public Law 109-55, Sec. 321). Responds to National Research Council's report Defending Planet Earth (2010), U.S. National NEO Preparedness Strategy (2023), Planetary Decadal Survey (2022)
- Program Exec: Andrea Riley. Program Scientist: Mike Kelley. Mission Manager:

Driving Science goals:

- Identify at least 2/3 of potentially hazardous asteroids >140 m in effective spherical diameter within 5-year baseline mission (Goal: $\geq 90\%$ completeness within 10-12 years)
- Collect and verify sufficient observations in order to calculate the frequency of impacts from asteroids >50 m in effective spherical diameter & comets
- Collect and verify sufficient observations in order to derive physical and orbital characteristics of specific objects of interest



Mission Architecture



Observatory will survey from halo orbit at L1 for 5 years with 12-year goal.

Launch readiness date - Sept 2027.

Instrument is passively cooled

- 50-cm telescope
- 2 IR channels imaging simultaneously
- 4-5.2 μm (NC1) and 6-10 μm (NC2)
- Each channel - 1x4 2kx2k HgCdTe mosaic
- Field of view 11 sq deg
- Sensitivity:
 - <110/280 μJy 5-sigma in 3min @ 8 μm @ 120/45 deg from Sun
 - <65/120 μJy 5-sigma in 3min @ 4.6 μm @ 120/45 deg from Sun

Spacecraft is based on Ball BCP2000 heritage

- 3-axis stabilized spacecraft
- Ejectable cover is the only deployment

NEO Surveyor Is A Time Domain Survey



Simulated NEO Surveyor "Quad" Image
0.8°x0.8° elon,elat=38°,+7°

4.6 microns

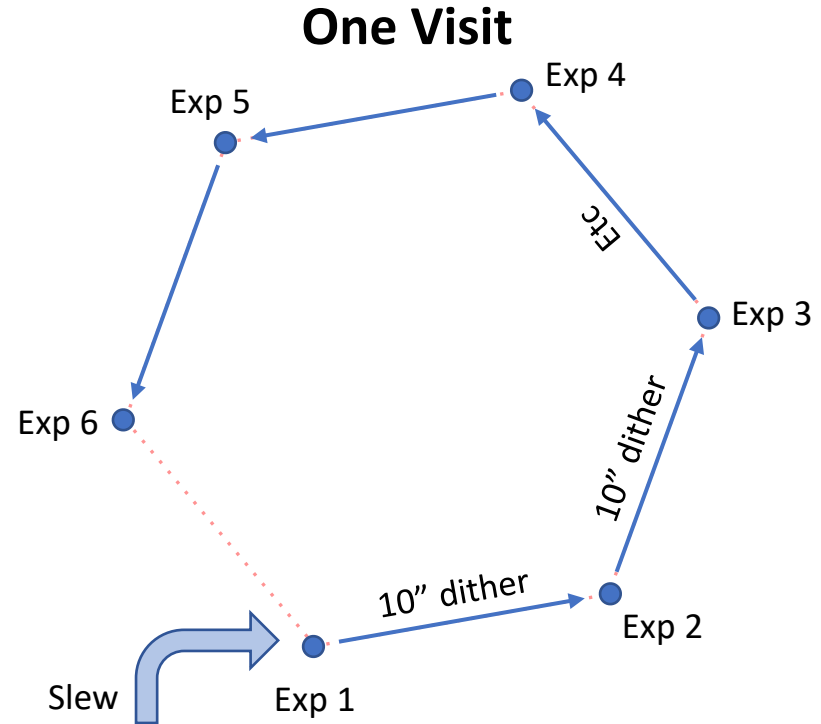
4.6 + 8 microns

8 microns



"Visit" is Fundamental Unit of Observation

- Visit is comprised of 6 dithered 30 sec Exposures
 - Each Exposures produces a pair of images in NC1 and NC2 bands that are downlinked
 - 10 arcsec dither move (~ 3 pixels) between each Exposure
 - Net 180 sec exposure time/Visit
- The 6 dithered Exposures:
 - All are downlinked
 - Enable building the required survey sensitivity by coadding in ground processing
 - Provide resilience to cosmic ray strikes, bad/noisy pixels
 - Provide the opportunity to detect very fast-moving objects

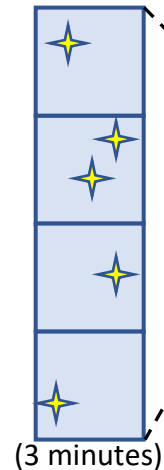


Repetitive Survey Cadence Optimized to Find Potentially Hazardous Asteroids

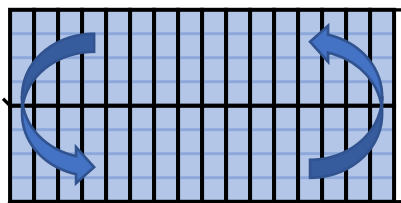


1 Visit =
6 Exposures

(4 detectors
per exposure)



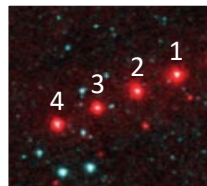
1 Loop =
~32 Visits



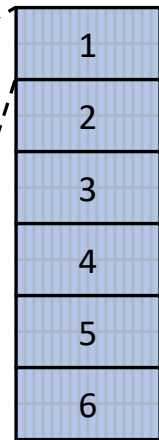
1 Quad =
4 Loops



(8 hours)

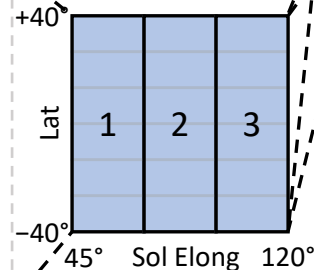


1 Stack =
6 Quads



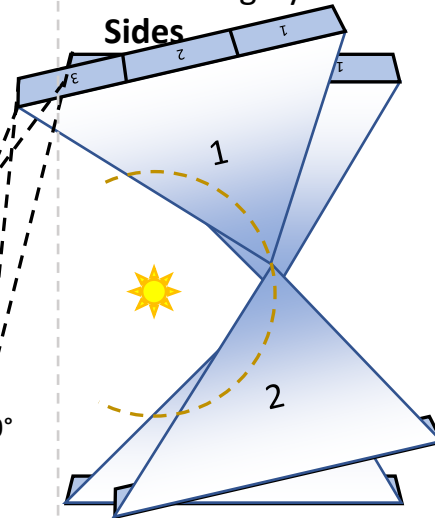
(2.2 days)

1 Side =
3 Stacks



(6.6 days)

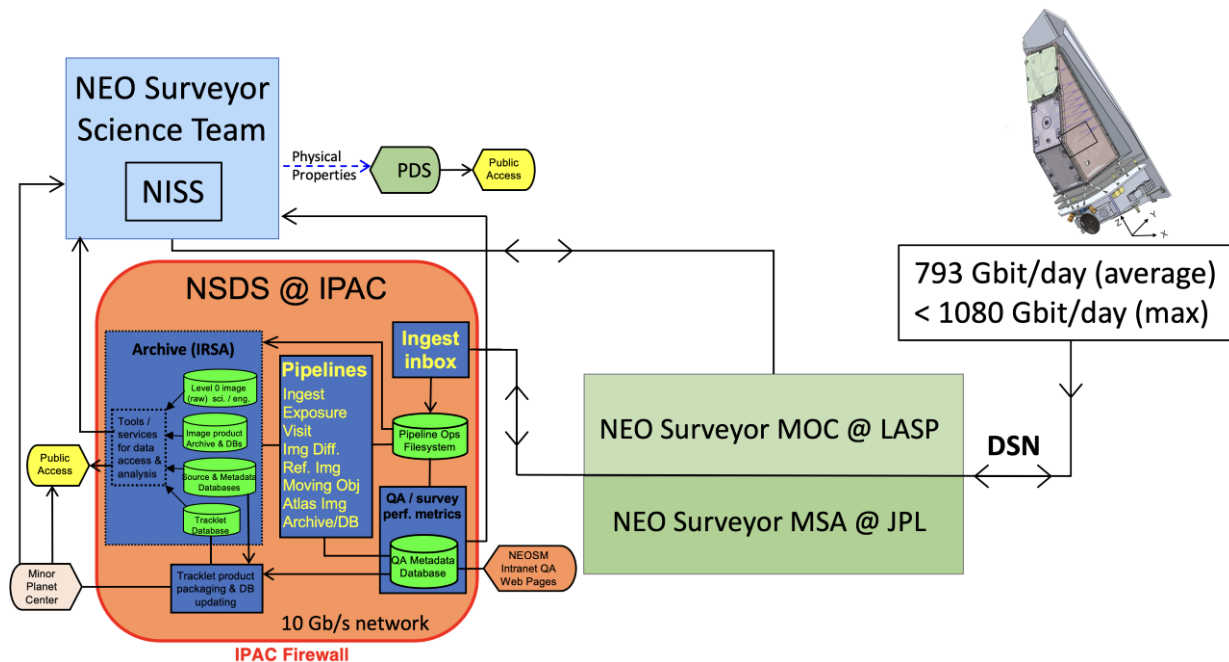
Complete
Observing Cycle = 2
Sides



(13.2 days)

Each fixed point on the sky visited 5-6 times over ~75 day observing season

NEO Surveyor Survey Data System (NSDS) developed and operated by IPAC/Caltech



Data downlink once per day via DSN

• NSDS Functions:

- Calibrate Exposure and Visit image data
 - Multiband source extraction, photometry and astrometry
 - Image differencing to identify moving object (transient) candidates
 - ML-based detection classification
 - Moving object tracklet generation
 - Science data quality assurance
 - Data archiving and distribution
- NSDS leverages heritage from 2MASS, WISE/NEOWISE, and ZTF data systems

NEO Surveyor Data Products and Delivery Schedule



Moving Object Tracklets

Position-time pairs of linked detections of candidate solar system objects

Delivered daily to the MPC within 72 hrs of observation beginning 1 month after end of IOC (best effort)

NSDS

Visit/Exposure Image Sets and Source Extractions

Calibrated intensity images, noise maps, bit masks from each Visit/Exposure

Photometry and astrometry of all sources detected on Visit/Exposure images

Released every 6 months via IRSA beginning 7 months after end of IOC

NSDS

Moving Object Database

Photometry, astrometry, orbits, and derived physical parameters for solar system objects detected by NEOS and confirmed by the MPC.

Released every 6 months via the PDS beginning 12 months after end of IOC

Sci. Team

Static Sky Atlas Image Sets

Coadded intensity images, noise and coverage maps generated by combining previous year's data

Released annually via IRSA beginning 17 months after end of IOC

NSDS