

ASCEND x WEBINAR

21 April 2021 | 1400-1530 hrs ET USA

**MAXIMIZING
PAYLOAD SUCCESS**

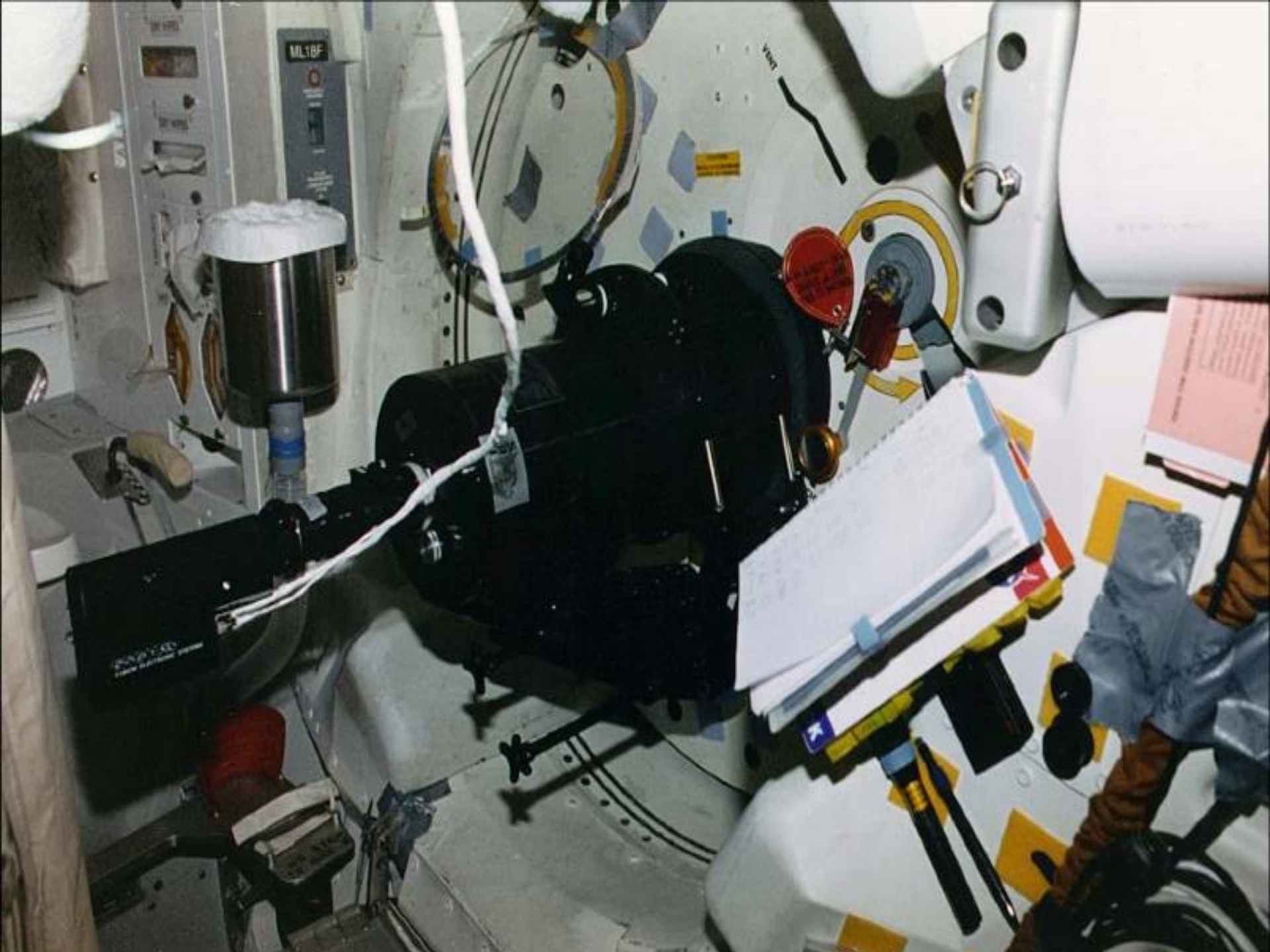
**Alan Stern
SwRI
21 April 2021**













WARNING
THIS AIRCRAFT CONTAINS A CARTRIDGE
ACTUATED EMERGENCY ESCAPE SYSTEM
EQUIPPED WITH EXPLOSIVE CHARGES.
SEE APPLICABLE MAINTENANCE MANUAL
FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTION









First scientist slated to fly to space on Galactic's suborbital tourist rocket

Head of NASA's Pluto mission, Alan Stern, is the rider

By [Loren Grush](#) | [@lorengrush](#) | Oct 14, 2020, 3:18pm EDT



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Image: Virgin Galactic



TEST LIKE YOU FLY, FLY LIKE YOU TEST



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

QUALITY

**IT MEANS
ATTENTION
TO DETAIL**

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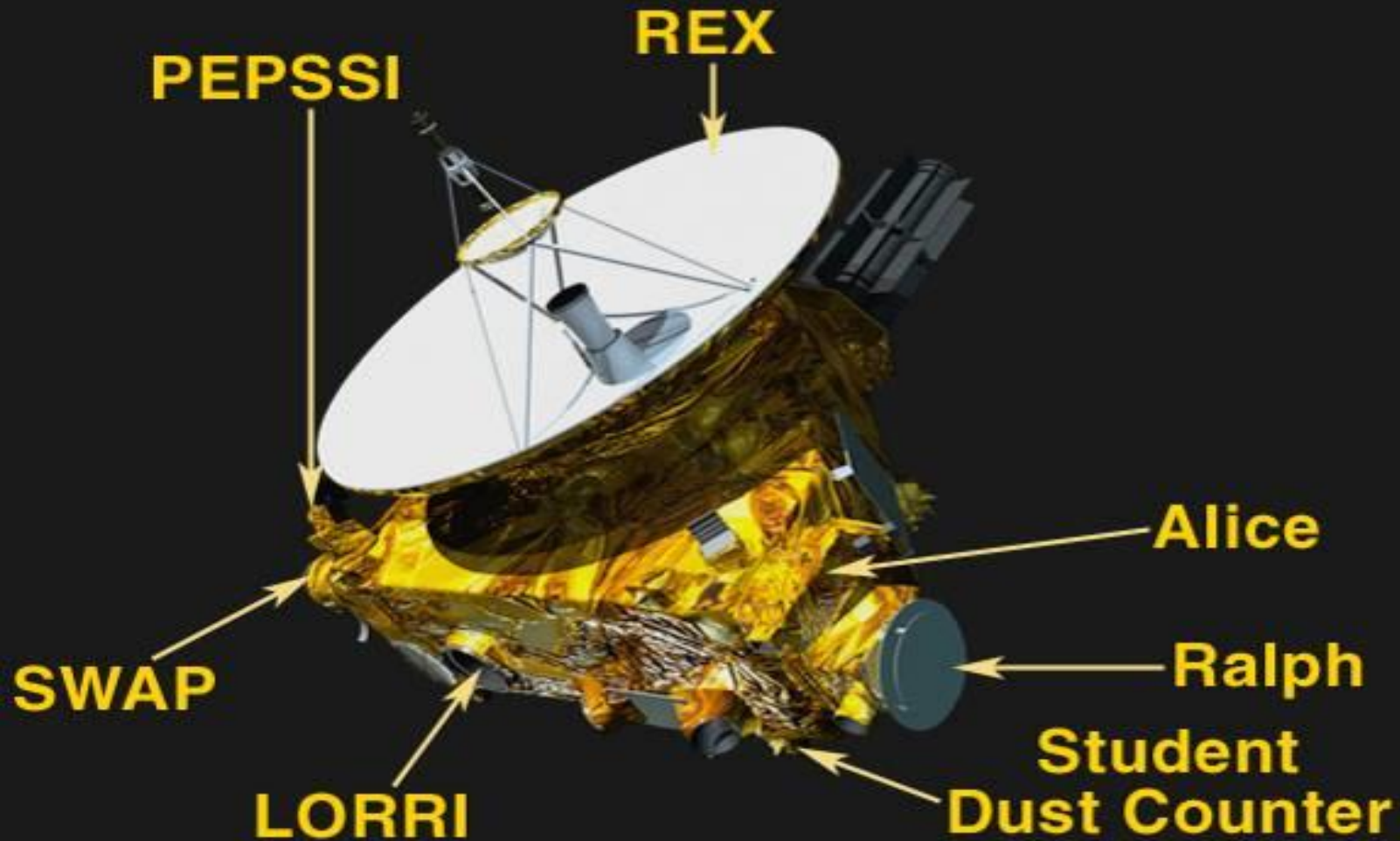
TEAM AND TEAMWORK



CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS



INTELLIGENT COMPROMISE



SOLVING PROBLEMS EARLY



SOMETIMES PUSHING BACK



ADVANCE PRAISE FOR
CHASING NEW HORIZONS

"When the New Horizons spacecraft flew from here to Pluto and beyond, the pictures and data forever changed the way we view our Solar System and our place within it. Stern and Grinspoon show us what NASA can do when the United States brings its best. New Horizons is still flying, and for us Plutophiles it's the adventure of a lifetime."

—BILL NYE, science educator, CEO of the Planetary Society

"Here is the exciting, moment-by-moment account of how a dream becomes a successful mission to another planet. *Chasing New Horizons* is a cliff-hanger, a page-turner, a spine-tingler, and, ultimately, a reason to stand up and cheer. Readers are 'Go!' for Pluto and beyond." —DAVA SOBEL, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Galileo's Daughter* and *The Glass Universe*

"Alan Stern and David Grinspoon take the reader to Pluto on a historic odyssey from its inception to its conclusion."

—CAPT. JAMES LOVELL, commander, Apollo 13

"To Pluto and beyond! This is a thrilling and very human account of one of the greatest scientific adventures of our generation."

—BRIAN MAY, astrophysicist and lead guitarist of Queen

"A compelling account of one of the most ambitious space exploration missions ever conducted."

—CAPT. MARK KELLY, retired NASA space shuttle commander

"The fascinating story of how human curiosity, ingenuity, and tenacity have revealed to us what a world that is billions of miles away is really like. Space exploration at its best."

—MARIO LIVIO, astrophysicist, and author of *Why?:*

What Makes Us Curious and *Brilliant Blunders*

"Imagine launching a spacecraft that will travel faster than 30,000 miles per hour, for nearly a decade, until it passes the previously unreachable surface of Pluto, capturing some of the most beautiful images ever recorded. This mission is a demonstration of the best side of humanity and Alan Stern is a true superhero!"

—DAVID BLAINE, magician and space enthusiast



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NEW HORIZONS

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FIRST
MISSION
TO PLUTO

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