

## **New Horizons: The First Mission to Pluto**

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An overview is provided for the New Horizons mission, which is designed to complete the initial reconnaissance of the solar system with a flyby of Pluto and its three moons in July 2015 (plus a Kuiper Belt Object or two about three years later). New Horizons carries a sophisticated suite of instruments to perform ultraviolet and infrared spectroscopy, panchromatic and color optical imaging, and charged particle and dust measurements. The primary scientific objectives are to characterize the global geology and morphology of Pluto and its primary moon Charon, map the surface composition of Pluto and Charon, and characterize the neutral atmosphere and its escape rate, but many other important scientific objectives will be addressed as well. Detailed plans for New Horizons observations at the Pluto system are currently being finalized and will be outlined.