

NASA  
Mars Exploration Program Update  
Planetary Science Subcommittee

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MARS

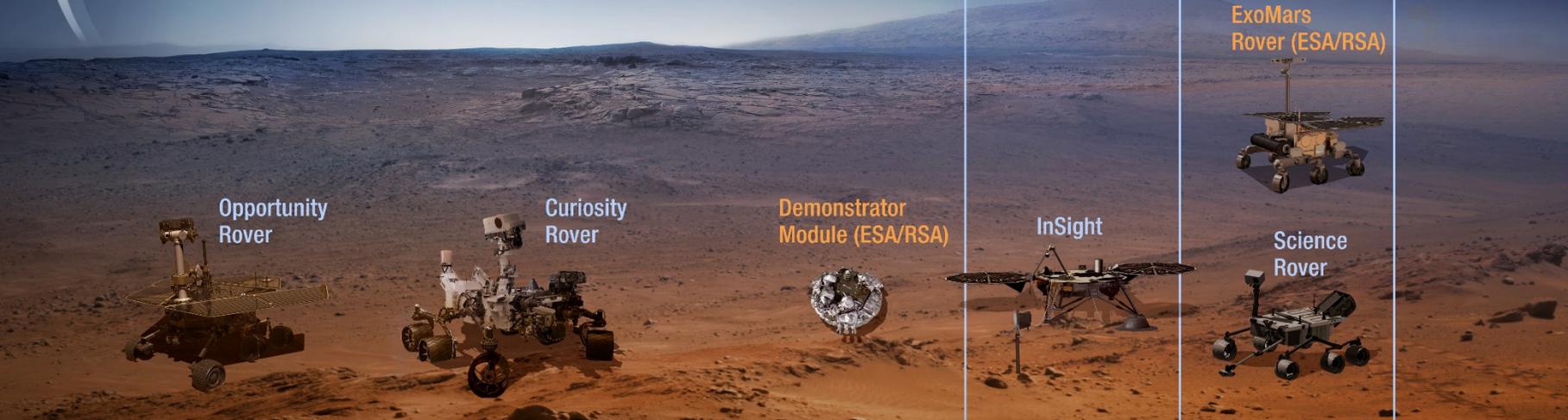
A wide-angle photograph of the Martian surface, showing a vast, flat, reddish-brown landscape under a hazy, blue-tinted sky. In the distance, a low, rounded mountain range is visible. The overall scene is desolate and captures the unique atmosphere of Mars.

Operational 2001–2016

2018

2020

2020s

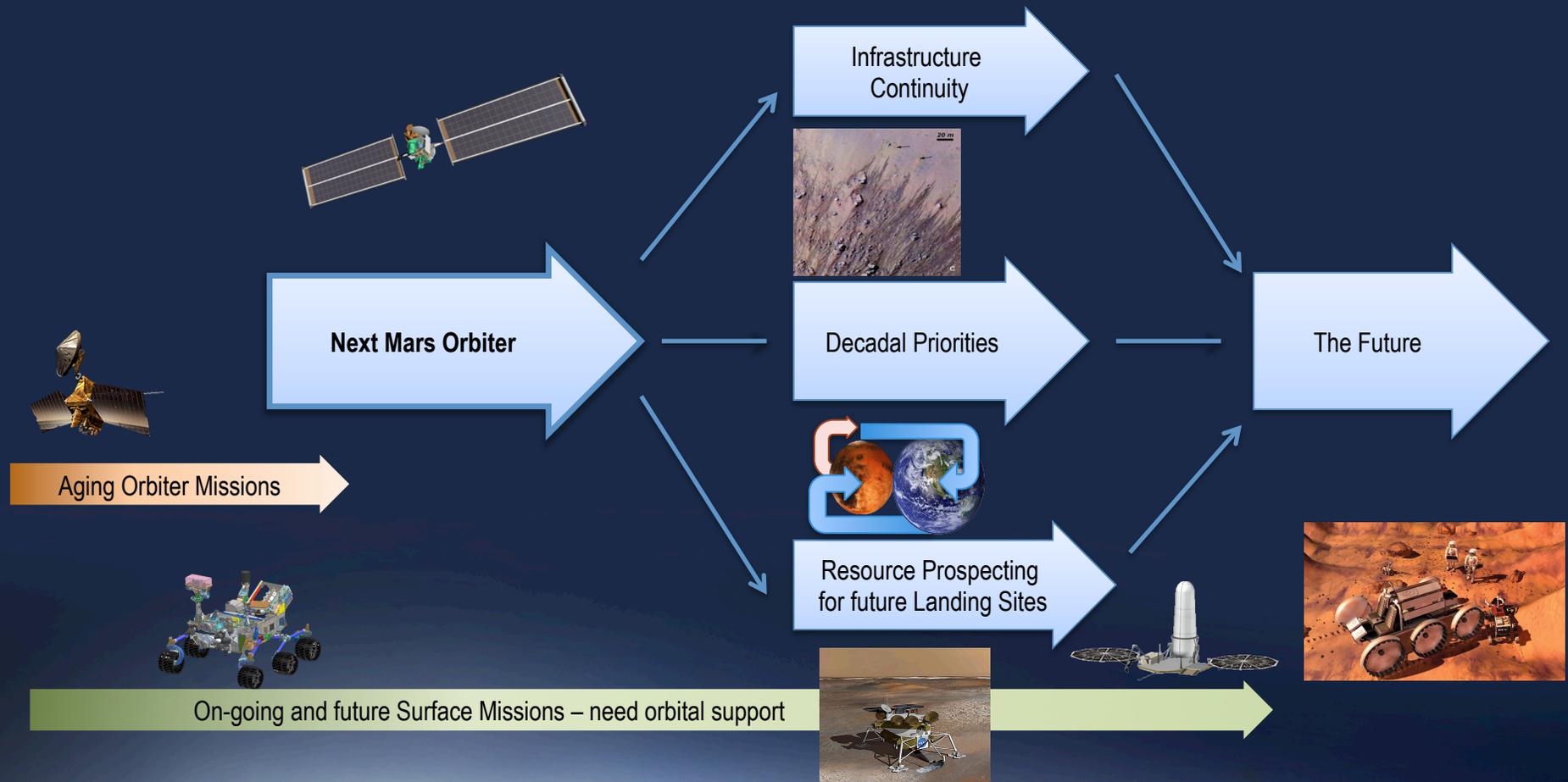


# Strategic View Forward

- US National Research Council (NRC) Planetary Science Decadal Survey (2012) gave the highest priority to “elements of the Mars Sample Return Campaign”
- The Mars 2020 mission and its payload begin this process with the characterization of a site and the careful selection and documentation of a suite of samples acquired and encapsulated for return
- The President’s NASA Budget Request for FY2017 provides \$10M to begin early work on a future Mars orbiter missions beyond 2020 – with an emphasis on emplacing the infrastructure for the next decade

**MEP planning strives to integrate these realities into a viable plan for the future**

# Next Orbiter Can Provide Capabilities that enable Many Future Pathways



**Timely Renewal and Enhancement of Infrastructure is needed to Support Future Missions**