

PDS_VERSION_ID = PDS3
LABEL_REVISION_NOTE = "
2018-08-15 SOC:Enke Initial version;
"

RECORD_TYPE = STREAM

OBJECT = MISSION
MISSION_NAME = "NEW HORIZONS KUIPER BELT EXTENDED MISSION"

OBJECT = MISSION_INFORMATION
MISSION_START_DATE = 2016-10-26
MISSION_STOP_DATE = 2021-09-30
MISSION_ALIAS_NAME = "NH_KEM"
MISSION_DESC = "

This material has been adapted from the New Horizons web site. The mission stop date is the current stop date of the Kuiper Belt (KB) Extended Mission (KEM).

Summary

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Launch: January 19, 2006

Launch Vehicle: Atlas V 551 first stage; Centaur second stage;
STAR 48B solid rocket third stage

Location: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida

Trajectory: To Pluto and the Kuiper Belt via Jupiter Gravity
Assist

Mission Overview

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The New Horizons Kuiper Belt Extended Mission is a mission to a recently discovered, unexplored region of the solar system, the Kuiper Belt. The centerpiece of the mission is a close flyby of Kuiper Belt Object 2014 MU69. The mission will also aggressively survey the KB using NH as an observatory, examining many other Kuiper Belt Objects and Centaurs while studying the Kuiper Belt dust, gas, plasma, and energetic particle environments. Doing so will place both 2014 MU69 and the Pluto system in better context among Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs), increasing scientific understanding of both.

Mission Design

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The New Horizons spacecraft trajectory was designed to optimize the earliest possible Pluto fly-by. Post-Pluto modifications of the trajectory were limited by the need to conserve fuel. A campaign to discover suitable Kuiper Belt Objects within the cone of possible New Horizons trajectory changes revealed five candidates.

In June, 2016, based on the 2016 Planetary Mission Senior Review Panel report, NASA directed the New Horizons extended mission to