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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 plan for continued operations through fiscal year 2021. The New Horizons extended mission now includes a visit to a Kuiper Belt Object known as 2014 MU69. The spacecraft ~~will pass~~ 2014 MU69 with closest approach on Jan 1, 2019.

has passed

As an extended mission to a target of opportunity, design options for the New Horizons Kuiper Belt Extended Mission are limited. 2014 MU69 will be observed using the same instruments and procedures as proved so effective for studying the Pluto system in 2015.

See the New Horizons Mission catalog file for more information on mission design and target opportunities within the primary mission phase.

Mission Phases

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Summary of mission phases

Mission phases provide convenient handles and approximate time boundaries to

- 1) partition the data into very broad categories of mission activity
- 2) provide approximate time boundaries for PDS archive data sets

The mission is continuous, so the boundaries are very soft i.e. in an operational sense they do not exist in a noticeable way.

That being the case, the user should not expect the actual range of times covered by data in this data set to exactly agree with the boundaries of the corresponding mission phase described below; the data set time range may be far less or it may overlap the boundaries.

See the New Horizons Mission catalog file for an extended explanation of mission phases. Some primary mission phases are included in the table below, for convenience and continuity.

Short name	Start (1,3)	Stop (2,3)	Full MISSION_PHASE_NAME, plus optional Description
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LAUNCH	2006-01-19	2006-12-31	POST-LAUNCH CHECKOUT
JUPITER	2007-01-01	2007-06-26	JUPITER ENCOUNTER
PLUTO CRUISE	2007-06-27	2015-01-15	PLUTO CRUISE, Jupiter-Pluto/Charon Interplanetary Cruise
PLUTO	2015-01-15	2016-10-26	PLUTO ENCOUNTER, Pluto mission phase,