

***New Horizons is on a unique, five-year mission to explore the Kuiper Belt, studying its objects and environment across 2 billion miles of space.***



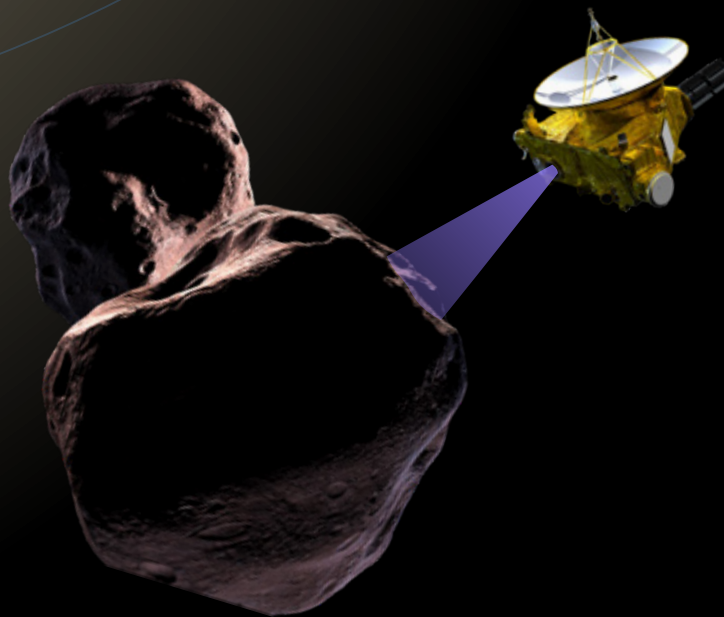
### **Environment**

Space might seem vast and empty, but it is filled with dust particles, gases from the Sun, and many kinds of radiation in the form of electrons and ions. New Horizons uses many sophisticated scientific instruments to study these particles and plasmas to learn about the Kuiper Belt environment.

### **Close Flyby**

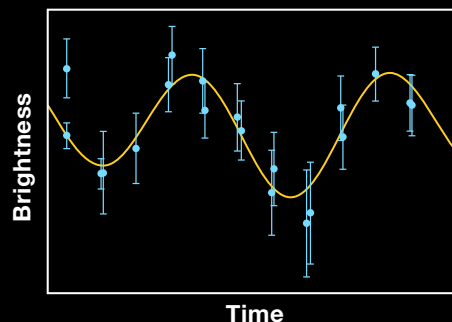
New Horizons is the first spacecraft to explore the solar system's third zone.

New Horizons' prime target for its exploration of the third zone, nicknamed Ultima Thule (pronounced "Ultima Toolee"), is officially called 2014 MU69. On January 1, 2019, New Horizons plans to fly more than three times closer to Ultima Thule than it did to Pluto.



### **Distant Flybys**

New Horizons is a flying space observatory with a unique vantage point to study other objects in the Kuiper Belt. Even though it won't fly as close to other objects as it will to Ultima, its telescopic camera will study these other bodies in ways we cannot from Earth. We are studying their orbits, searching for moons and rings, determining their surface properties, and even measuring their rotation.



*The object's change in brightness with time tells us about its shape and rotation period.*

