Shedding Light on Frontier Worlds

**Key Spacecraft Design Characteristics**

- Small and agile; projected mass of about 1,000 lbs. (including propellant)
- Backup devices for major electronics, star-tracking navigation cameras and data recorders
- Modified “hibernation” capability saves costs during the cruise to Pluto/Charon
- 8 distinct beacon tones used during hibernation communicate spacecraft health
- Three-axis and spin-stabilized attitude control
- Propulsion system (used for pointing, course corrections, and KBO targeting) includes 16 hydrazine thrusters
- “Thermos bottle” design maintains safe operating temperatures in deep space
- First use of on-board regenerative ranging capability yielding up to 30dB improvement over standard ranging at long distances
- Advanced digital receiver consumes 60% less power than current deep space receivers
- Baseline power supply: radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG) provided by the Department of Energy

**Science Payload**

- **Ralph**: Visible and infrared imager/spectrometer; provides color, composition and thermal maps
- **Alice**: Ultraviolet imaging spectrometer; analyzes composition and structure of Pluto’s atmosphere and looks for atmospheres around Charon and Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs)
- **REX (Radio Science Experiment)**: Measures atmospheric composition and temperature; passive radiometer
- **LORRI (Long Range Reconnaissance Imager)**: Telescopic camera; obtains encounter data at long distances, maps Pluto’s far side and provides high resolution geologic data
- **SWAP (Solar Wind Around Pluto)**: Solar wind and plasma spectrometer; measures atmospheric “escape rate” and observes Pluto’s interaction with solar wind
- **PEPSSI (Pluto Energetic Particle Spectrometer Science Investigation)**: Energetic particle spectrometer; measures the composition and density of plasma (ions) escaping from Pluto’s atmosphere
- **SDC (Student Dust Counter)**: Built and operated by students; measures the space dust peppering New Horizons during its voyage across the solar system