

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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Quantum Technology in PSD Dr. Erica Montbach Planetary Exploration Science Technology Office (PESTO) July 9, 2025



Quantum Sensing for Planetary Science

Atomic Lunar Seismometer

- Low measurement frequency (<10 mHz) cold atom interferometer to probe interior and structure by measuring seismic waves and long-period global normal modes and gravity measurements
- PI: Nan Yu/Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Atomic Drag-Free Accelerometer

- Compact 3-axis cold atom interferometer sensor for gravity measurements and/or nongravitational force measurements on spacecraft
- Target sensitivity < $3x10^{-8}$ m/s²/ \sqrt{Hz} at frequency <1 Hz
- PI: Nan Yu/Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Optically Pumped Solid State Quantum Magnetometer

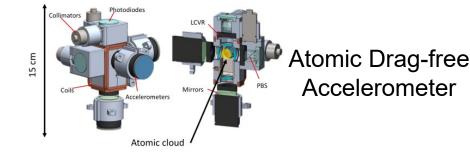
- 3-axis vector measurement using single color-center sensor with capability for self-calibration through atomic constants.
- Target sensitivity 10's pT/\sqrt{Hz}
- Understand formation, inner workings and compositions of planetary bodies, the interaction of geodynamos with atmospheres, and detection of large water bodies (magnetotellurics)
- PI: Hanes Kraus JPL Co-Is: David Spry/GRC, Phil Neudeck/GRC, et al.

Hybrid Radio Frequency (RF) and Magneto-Inductive (MI) Transceiver for Europa Sub-Ice Communications

- Design and prototype an MI communications systems based on a superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) and chip-scale atomic magnetometer (CSAM) for MI-to-RF bridge link
- PI: Michael Cheng/JPL Co-I: Brian Vyhnalek/GRC

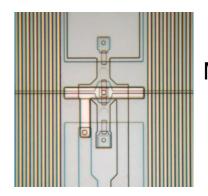


Atomic Lunar Seismometer





SiC Color Center Magnetometer



Magneto-Inductive Transceiver for Ocean Worlds