

**NOW**

**10 yrs.**

**20 yrs.**

**30 yrs.**

**40 yrs.**

**NASA  
PLANS &  
PROGRAMS**

**MISSION**

**DIRECTORATES**

- Exploration Systems
- Space Operations
- Science Research
- Aeronautics Research

**TECHNOLOGY**

Enablers to construct the system: Devices, subsystems and components, design techniques, analysis and modeling generally associated with engineering and scientific disciplines (e.g. aerodynamics, material structures, electronics, sensors, chemistry, combustion, plasma dynamics)

**NIAC MISSION:  
Revolutionary Advanced Concepts**

**ARCHITECTURES**

- Overall plan to accomplish a goal.
- A suite of systems, their operational methods and interrelationships, capable of meeting an overall mission or program objective.

**SYSTEMS**

- The physical embodiment of the architecture.
- A suite of equipment, software, and operation methods capable of accomplishing an operational objective.

