

OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS



• Overall Objective

- Assess, develop and validate optical communications technology for support of future NASA missions

• Goals and Products

- Implement a 1-meter diameter ground-based optical R&D station (OCTL)
- Plan and conduct system-level optical communication link demonstrations to validate system performance
- Evaluate the performance limitations of optical detectors and develop detectors that approach those limitations
- Assess atmospheric effects on optical communications link performance
- Develop new performance bounds and analysis tools for optical communications link performance predictions

