These rocky fragments are leftovers from the beginning of our solar system.

Asteroid
Much smaller rocks or particles in orbit around the Sun.

Meteoroid
If a small asteroid or large meteoroid survives its fiery passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands on Earth's surface, it is then called a meteorite.

Meteorite
Cosmic snowballs of gas and dust that make sweeping orbits around our sun.

Comet
If a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and vaporizes, it becomes a meteor, which is often called a shooting star.

Symbol key

Once launched, it takes a diverse team of people to make a mission possible. Engineers, technical staff and scientists oversee all aspects of the Psyche mission. This team is responsible for the day-to-day operations, and performance of the spacecraft.

Mission Systems
Spacecraft (also known as flight systems to engineers), are the foundation of every mission. A mixed group of engineers designs and plans every aspect of the spacecraft from its intricate design to its fabrication, software, testing, and supporting electronic systems.

Flight Systems

The public outreach and student teams are responsible for educating the general public about the Psyche mission and its science goals and discoveries. The public outreach team includes communications experts, graphic artists, photographers, videographers, and other creative professionals. The Psyche mission engages student interns and capstone participants from around the country who support the mission through academic and creative projects.

Public Outreach & Student Participation

The science team is made up of science investigators, collaborators, and students who help define and conduct Psyche’s science investigations. The team will manage and review data provided by the science instruments.

Science Team

Management of the design, building and operations of the spacecraft are key components of mission operations. This team, which includes experienced engineers, business managers, and schedulers ensures that the mission meets its goals and objectives.

Project Management

Every NASA science mission is equipped with a suite of high-tech instruments that gather scientific information. The Psyche spacecraft will carry a multispectral imager, a gamma ray and neutron spectrometer, and a magnetometer, and will conduct radio science using its radio telecommunications system. Collectively, these instruments will observe the asteroid up close to help scientists learn more about the history of the solar system.

Payload Engineering

This poster celebrates the spirit and ingenuity of the people who have contributed to this mission’s research, development, and execution. The spacecraft image is made from geometric forms symbolizing the diverse teams who made this mission possible. Each symbol corresponds to all the people, across different teams, each with their own unique skill set.
Deep within the terrestrial planets, including Earth, scientists infer the presence of metallic cores, but these lie far below the planets’ rocky mantles and crusts. The Psyche asteroid is the only known place in our solar system where we can examine directly what may contain metal from the core of a planetesimal—the first building block of a planet. NASA’s Psyche mission will explore the Psyche asteroid, to map and study its properties and provide scientists with new understanding of our own planet’s interior. Insights from the mission will offer scientists a unique window into planet formation and the opportunity to investigate a previously unexplored type of world.

www.nasa.gov
psyche.asu.edu

Symbol key

Terminology

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Orbiting the Psyche asteroid

Spacecraft journey

Journey to a metal world

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