

43rd SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) – The  
Next Steps (A4)  
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE "BILLINGHAM CUTTING EDGE LECTURE": THE NEW HORIZONS  
MESSAGE INITIATIVE: SETI'S NEW HORIZON

**Abstract**

The authors have proposed to NASA the creation and uploading of a message into the New Horizons spacecraft's memory, following a successful Pluto encounter in 2015. In the tradition of the Voyager Records now traveling through interstellar space, this message will be a self-portrait of our planet and species, to be shared with all humanity, and potentially with intelligent species elsewhere. The message contents are being crowd-sourced by people worldwide, and thus represent our planet as a whole. An international board of expert space scientists and engineers has determined this proposal to be technically feasible, and is currently managing all technical details. Programs for K-12 students will also increase interest in the New Horizons interplanetary probe mission, as well as showing students how they may share in this rare chance to help make a message that will soar among the stars.