

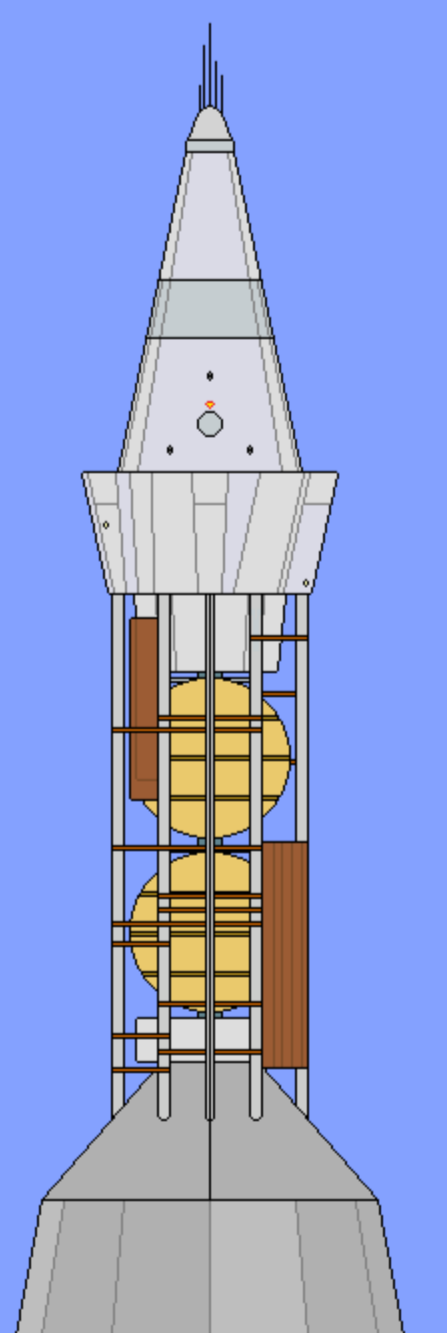
# ***DYNAMICS'***

## ***STAR FLEET***

***STARSHIP RECOGNITION MANUAL***

***REPORT: COLUMBUS***

***INTERSTELLAR SUBLIGHT EXPLORER***





## FORWARD

My contribution to this project would not have been possible without those who came before me. Mainly, CaptShade, whose original drawings laid the foundation for my work by providing me the figurative and literal tools for my own creative output. Nichodo, who was a big help in creating aft and ventral views of various components. RevancheRM, whose ideas and drive helped me get a little more creative and better at something I really enjoy. And, most definitely, Neale "Vance" Davidson, whose enormous volume of work got me interested in doing this in the first place, and for inspiring us all.

- Adrasil

First, as always, thanks to Adrasil. Since partnering with him, I've taken some great artwork and added some context to it. He's really allowed me to scratch my writing itch, to the point it sometimes bleeds, but still feels Oh-So-Good. Next up, of course, is Timo Saloniemi, who's work I've been following for around two decades and I greatly respect. The artwork in these "Starship Recognition Manuals" are 97% based upon the ones he describes textually in his grand opus, the "Hobbyist's Guide to the UFP Starfleet and Its History," and 3% derived from what he has inspired in us.

- RevancheRM

Additional reports may be found at: [starshiptracker.com/deltadynamics](http://starshiptracker.com/deltadynamics)

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## CREDITS

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TIMO SALONIEMI: Author of "Hobbyist's Guide to the UFP Starfleet", the inspiration for these SRMs. A direct link to his Google Drive may be found on most deviations in RevancheRM's gallery.

### COLUMBUS SERIES:

- Original inspiration from: Spaceflight Chronology (Goldstein, Goldstein, Sternbach)

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## NOTE FROM THE WRITING EDITOR

These ships do not always exactly match the specifications Timo provides in his technical section for each class, as I've adapted them in ways that allowed them to fit a bit better with the guidance provided by the starship construction rules in Steven Long's "Spacedock". I've also changed some dates around when I found them in conflict with other information Timo has provided. These two books greatly inform my own alpha-canon and I urge you to look up both online, as offered free by their respective authors. (Links to both are provided on the Delta Dynamics site.)

Delta Dynamics' Starship Recognition Manual, along with the Reports and all other similar publications released under that branding, are released as a public service to familiarize interested beings with the historic starship designs and technical developments of the United Federation of Planets Star Fleet, its member and preceding services, and those services of regional galactic neighbors. Despite the occasional presence of a sensitive nature of both those historic events and technical matters discussed herein, the distribution and handling of this publication has been ruled Security Grade O (Unclassified) by Star Fleet Support Operations, Office of Security.

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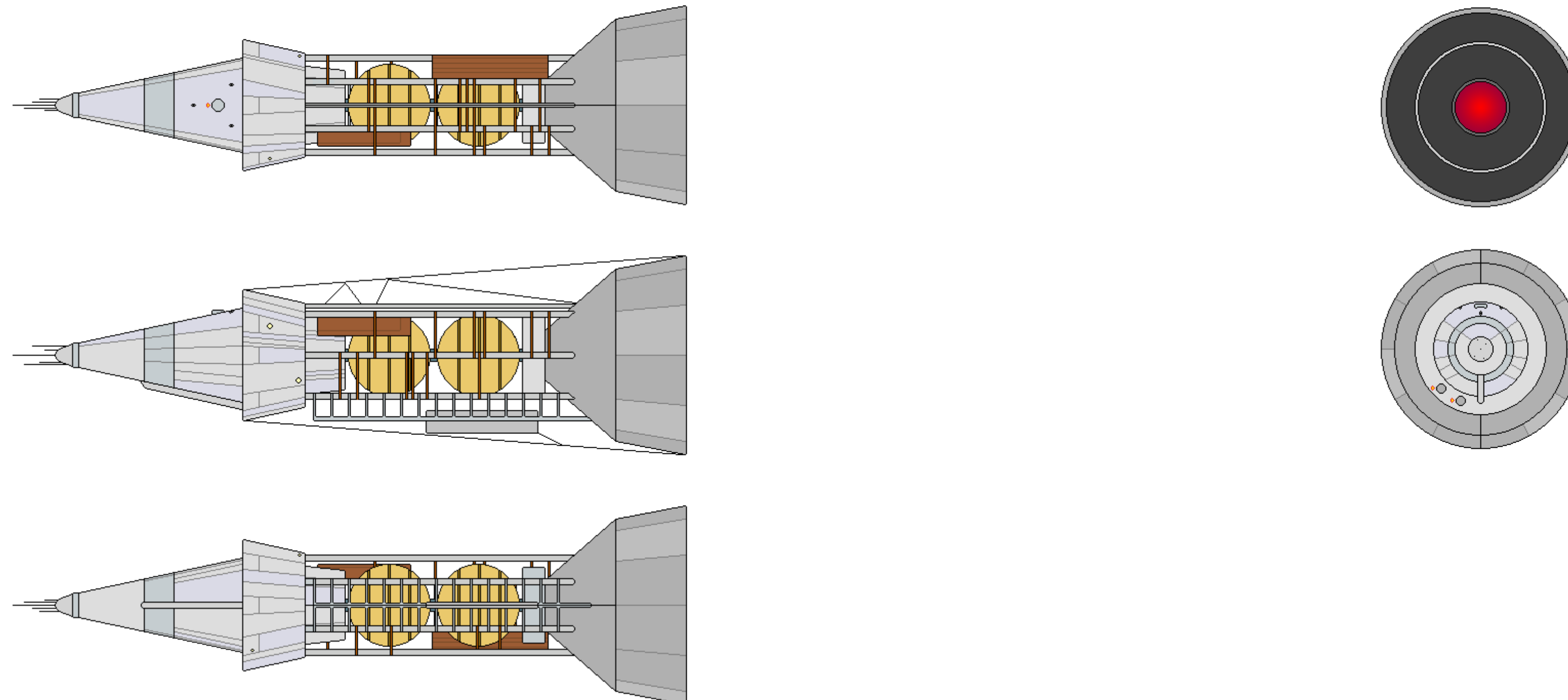


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COLUMBUS SERIES



CATEGORY: INTERSTELLAR EXPLORER  
 OPERATIONAL: 2040 - 2104  
 CONSTRUCTED: 5

DIMENSIONS:		TACTICAL:
LENGTH:	121.0 M	- ELECTROMAGNETIC SHIELD (14 MT)
BEAM:	35.9 M	- GAS ENVELOPE DEFLECTORS
HEIGHT:	35.9 M	
MASS:	8,600 MT	

PERFORMANCE:		AUXILIARIES:
MAX:	0.23 C	- 1X ATMOSPHERIC CRAFT
ENDURANCE:	58 YEARS (RECORD)	- 2X MAINTENANCE PODS

COMPLEMENT:  
 CREW: 40

AUTHORIZED CONSTRUCTION

THE FOLLOWING SHIPS OF THE ABOVE SERIES WERE AUTHORIZED AS PART OF THE JOINT COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE AGENCY AND THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION WITH SHARED APPROPRIATION BETWEEN THE NEW UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

UNSS COLUMBUS  
 UNSS NAUTILUS  
 UNSS HECTOR

UNSS PROMETHEUS  
 UNSS ICARUS

GENERAL INFORMATION

By the time of the unfortunate demise of the AFP-1 and its crew (in 2035), the Singh-type ion engines—largely due to the "spookiness" of the then-unrealized subspace influence—had achieved propulsion dominance in both military and commercial spacecraft applications. While the technology always remained somewhat mysterious to all, it was generally reliable and reproducible, important factors for any agency supporting a space exploration program. Notwithstanding the losses of the Galileo, the AFP-1, and two of the five NASA TAU missions over the preceding decade, the interstellar office within the International Space Agency was committed to moving ever forward and delivering a crewed vessel to another star system before the mid-century...or, at least, literally on the way.

And not just one vessel: the ISA and its NASA partner had the full-throated support of the Western Alliance in producing up to seven interstellar explorers to examine neighboring systems with the Human eye. There were absolutely no dissenting voices from within the WA block of the New United Nations and certainly not from the space industry. Among the positions for such a large construction order was the indubitable cost advantage of serial production and the inevitable continuation of interstellar ship development while these first vessels were still charging towards





## COLUMBUS SERIES GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

their respective destinations. It was also a position that building all vessels in an uninterrupted serial fashion before launch would allow for the discovery and rectification of any errors or weaknesses in all of them. After all, none of these vessels could simply turn around for repairs after decades of travel downrange. Each mission was binary: go or no-go.

The initial plan was to develop and build a prototype ship, the Columbus, for intrasystem testing, before assembling the remaining six ships to the finalized form. Key to this grandiose plan was a fusion-powered (rather than fission) ion engine. As one populist physicist of the time, in his aggrandizement of the Columbus missions, stated: "Fission-powered ion engines need fissile materials to keep going. In addition to that, ion drives typically use heavy noble gasses as reaction mass. Neither of which you are guaranteed to find in abundance on an alien world that you're visiting for the very first time. What will be a safer bet? Hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives, full-stop...no pun intended. This is the kind of fuel that fusion drives use happily. Furthermore, hydrogen-based fuels require far less refining in order to use versus noble gasses and fissile material, and this can be done onboard by these ships."

The decision to use fusion-powered ion drives was an apparent political hot-topic at the time. NASA's proposal was to introduce a second-generation pulse detonation drive—an early competitor to ion drives in the commercial industries—with the antimatter spiking of the methane exhaust replacing the first-gen nuclear warhead capsules. This was shot down as infeasible, as the technology for suspending significant amounts of antimatter was still in its infancy and the containment systems would have to be automated and un-maintained for decades on these sleeper ships. Despite some recent historians' proclamations that such propulsive technology had been utilized in this early stage of Humanity's interstellar program and specifically tied with the Columbus mission, all evidence indicates otherwise. The surviving engineering plans for the ship clearly demonstrate the complete lack of associated features, such as an on-board antimatter storage system, a pusher plate, or the various types of required shock absorbers. The fusion ion engine, selected instead, was fueled for the length of the journey to the destination star system by the primary 14.8-meter diameter deuterium tank and assisted in the acceleration of the expelled methane propellant by energy from the magnetohydrodynamic drive in the exhaust acceleration module.

The habitable areas of the ship—aside from the mandated control, habitation, life support and engineering spaces—sport a planetary sciences laboratory, automated sensor arrays, and wide-spectrum telescopes, a launch bay for small lander probes (for planetary body surveys), a variable-resource refiner, and an externally-mounted delta-wing shuttle. This craft was never intended to land on terrestrial surfaces, but rather perform manned atmospheric surveys and, most importantly, scoop hydrogen and methane from the target system's gas giants. The refinery space within the Columbus' hull was located adjacent to the crew access passageway for the shuttle, allowing for easy connections for offloading the acquired resources, which would then be transferred to the respective fuel tanks.

One new technology that was incorporated into the Columbus' design was a predecessor to the modern-day inertial damping field. This "inertial stabilizer" had been developed in 2036 by a space industry partnership (that included a Dinyan-Yoyodyne Conglomerate subsidiary) and functioned as a series of low-strength electromagnetic fields that attempted to absorb and counteract the velocity forces generated by the ship's maneuvers. It was rather slow to react (compared to our contemporary standards) and required its own dedicated control computer; while the UNSS Columbus' test crew reported they could not physically detect its effects, sensors proved it had a stabilizing influence on inanimate objects (including slumbering astronauts).

## SERIAL TRAGEDIES

In early 2040, the UNSS Columbus launched from lunar orbit on an uneventful test run to Saturn and back. Commanded by veteran space master Marina Nieri, an Italian with a full career in the ISA, the ship tested out its ion propulsion, sensor suites, and the shuttle in the upper atmosphere, fully replenishing both tanks for the return leg of the mission. The team's meticulous report recommended detailed alterations to the design, but was overall positive and complimentary. A production order for four ships was made in short order (down from six, as significant concerns regarding radiation from two target stars suggested deferment). A series of launches for all five craft was set for mid-2044, then pushed back to late 2045 due to some class-wide iterative equipment alternations. However, in September of that year, as UNSS Columbus prepared for the inaugural launch, a serious mishap during methane fueling resulted in the loss of eight crew and support service lives. Damage to the ship, while not extensive, would require a complete safety overhaul.

A few weeks of working the schedule and crew rosters resulted in UNSS Icarus taking over the Alpha Centauri mission from Columbus, with her original destination of 40 Eridani deferred, possibly until the class ship was fully operational again. Instead, the first launch—now in January





## COLUMBUS SERIES

### GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

2046—would be assigned to UNSS Nautilus, her crew of 40 charging for Tau Ceti at a distance of 6.12 lightyears downrange. UNSS Hector launched in mid-February for Arcturus, UNSS Prometheus for Epsilon Indii in March, and Icarus in April. Each ship had nearly identical mission itineraries for the intrasystem transit, with all crews fully suspended in cryosleep prior to passing Martian orbit. The news streams constantly relayed each vessel's relative position to Earth, including on May 5th, as Nautilus proceeded through the Oort cloud and auto-reported an allision with an object too massive to be countered by the hull protection measures. Sensors had been reporting an increasing level of ionic activity upon entry into the phenomenon and now indicated an extremely higher-than-anticipated amount of macrometeoroids and cometary fragments. The ship appeared to have suffered non-catastrophic casualties with that first event and, as the Earth-based incident management team considered options, she proceeded on at her high velocity. Telemetry had already been spotty due to the interference of the ion exhaust plume, but was suddenly interrupted by what was determined to be "uncontrollable oscillatory movement," or wild spinning. The minimal transmissions received from Nautilus suggested a continuous barrage of meteoroid collisions and multiple onboard fires. Space telescopes witnessed the vessel's demise within days.

Voices all around the planet clamored for the imminent recall of the three remaining ships and their 120 slumbering passengers. However, ISA was adamant that each of the vessels, even the Icarus (which had not yet entered the cloud), would be well into the same relative region by the time forward momentum was overcome and then each would have to traverse back again, exposed to the exact same threats. There was no certainty that the overwriting tasks transmitted from Earth would even be completely received, due to the high ionic activity experienced by Nautilus. It was forecasted that the interplanetary objects would be more dispersed in the outer cloud, if the original movement directives stood. The ships continued their pre-plotted routes as mission-reserved data frequencies grew more and more quiet with each passing hour; the partner agencies all but shuttered their telemetry monitors within weeks. The four operational vessels—and their Human crews—were considered lost to the depths of deep space.

### CONCLUSION (EARTH)

UNSS Columbus, as the last remaining vessel, saw all efforts to prepare her for her own mission (to 40 Eridani) canceled shortly after the final decision regarding the other three ships was made. She had been completely repaired from her fuel accident, but there was no discussion as to how she might be tasked. She remained in a near-mothball state until 2049, when the United States Strategic Command took over authority of the ship from NASA (ignoring the ISA's stake) and had her transferred from lunar orbit to one of Space Station Freedom's assembly berths, in response to the Eastern Coalition's construction order for five cruisers of the Akademik Mstislav Keldysh class. Over the next two years, as tensions on and above Earth simmered, Columbus received an overhaul—primarily on her forward section—that included a weapons package of four laser cannons and a missile launcher for 25 fusion warheads. The vessel performed low-profile patrols, generally in Earth orbit, during her brief operational period before her destruction in a preemptive ECON attack in 2053, just days before the outbreak of the Third World War.

### ARRIVAL: ALPHA CENTAURI PRIME

UNSS Icarus, though the last to depart the Sol system, was the first to arrive at its assigned destination, the trinary suns of Alpha Centauri, in early 2065. Interferometry telescoping and other observations had confirmed the presence of seven planets, at least five of which were known to be jovian in nature, excellent sources for her necessary fuels, hydrogen and methane. Equally important was the relatively short distance of 4.33 light-years from Earth and the seductive hint of carbon-based life on two of the inner planets. Icarus began waking her crew as she approached the inner edges of that system's Oort cloud. The reception of strong radio signals, once analyzed, confirmed an intelligent species inhabited both the third and fourth planets. Commander Lucilla Ricks, following her pre-planned responses, fired a repeating radio burst to Earth reporting the discovery and then announced their presence to the alien civilization.

It was much to their own surprise to find very familiar faces responding on the video screens: Centaurians have an indisputable genetic relation to Humans (though that could not be presumed at the time). To be greeted—though in an unfamiliar language—by a Human-appearing face was both welcome and perplexing. Fortunately, by the time Icarus had made orbit of the fourth planet—named Velestus by its inhabitants—the team's three linguists had received a basic language database from their hosts and translated it as an apparent derivative of the classical language of Greece, circa 300 BCE.

Their visit was peaceful and well-received. They found their hosts generous and welcoming as they toured several cities and regions over the 13-month visit, meeting world leaders and common people alike. The Centaurians (an Earth eponym by which they were consistently referred to within transmitted reports from the explorers) were clearly in an early interplanetary stage of





## COLUMBUS SERIES GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

development, as they had colonized the third planet of their system (Seldarian) approximately twenty years earlier and were developing large tracts of farmland with native Velestian crops and domesticated animals, on the otherwise fauna-less world (Class L by modern terminology). However, their spacecraft were hyper-local in comparison to equivalent Human interplanetary craft, as they had not yet explored their outer planets in any capacity, much less made any attempts to reach the remote third sun's intrinsic planetary system. On Velestus itself, the Centaurian society was more of a late industrial stage, with cultivated land primarily purposed for agrarian development. Industry was zoned only within the numerous mid-sized (by Human standards) cities, leaving large undeveloped areas in a natural and unpolluted state.

Eager to report in detail on what the Icarus' crew believed to be Humanity's first extraterrestrial contact (unaware of the Vulcan arrival at Earth two years prior), Ricks said farewell to the Centaurians and promised a return visit with a full diplomatic contingent within fifty years (accounting for the round trip). They were greeted back on Earth in July 2085 by a few familiar Centaurian faces, who had warped in years earlier on their own diplomatic mission, courtesy of the Vulcans.

### ARRIVAL: DRAYLAX & TARL (EPSILON INDI SYSTEM)

The crew of the UNSS Prometheus had, up until a point, a very similar encounter to that of the Icarus upon their arrival in the Epsilon Indi system in May 2080. Like their sister ship, they awoke to low-level radio signals, this time between the second planet of Epsilon Indi A and the first planet of Epsilon Indi C. Where their story diverged was with the first video contact: they were also greeted by a relatively familiar visage, but this time it was actually Human. The Verne class survey cruisers had started departing the Sol system as early as the late Sixties and the first Human footprint was left in the sands of Draylax in the early Seventies. Even the news of the Icarus' first contact with the Centaurians had made its way to the alien system, so the arrival of the Prometheus was not unexpected by the Human guests of the Vulcan diplomats already on-planet.

An astounded crew got to meet three new alien races shortly after making orbit: the Vulcans had established a mere outpost of an embassy in the Draylaxian capital city and provided shuttle service to Tarl, the long-established and extensive domed colony on the Kesh class world of Epsilon Indi C I. The Tarl, a large, green-skinned people could not recount much of their origins, as their own recoverable history only went as far back as a point well after the presumed construction date of the environmental domes. To the newly-arrived Humans, they were an odd encounter: friendly, pre-disposed to engineering (primarily of life support equipment), and incessantly imbibing alcohol, from which they derived their sustenance. They avoided more typical solids and most especially acid-based foodstuffs, such as citrus juices, which quickly left them inebriated.

Back on Draylax, a Harauk class world most noted for its seas of sandy dunes and hard-pan plains, the Prometheus crew learned how the early (per Vulcan policy) first contact by Humans the previous decade had jump-started an interplanetary industry. This had allowed the two civilizations in the large trinary system to finally meet and establish ongoing relations, 30 years after first making radio-only contact. The Draylaxians, a feline species with significantly leonine facial features, were already working to develop their own interstellar capabilities, to correct what was threatening to become a trade imbalance precipitated by the steady arrivals of aliens from other warp-capable societies.

Historical accounts of the Prometheus crew's reactions indicate they were far more astounded by their interactions with these unexpected alien cultures and their own home world's post-launch achievements than they were disappointed to not be "the first" to contact another species. The ship itself was mothballed—with considerable ceremony by the Draylaxians—in the Epsilon Indi A system, while the crew returned—quite rapidly—to Earth via a scheduled Vulcan envoy ship.

### ARRIVAL: ARCTURUS

When the UNSS Prometheus arrived in the Epsilon Indi system in 2080, it proved that the Columbus missions had a far better success rate than the early loss of UNSS Nautilus suggested. As UNSS Hector was the last of the four with an undetermined fate, the progress of her course was calculated and the Vulcans were convinced to "keep an eye out for her," as they scouted the region in the direction of Arcturus. In 2088, the low-emitting vessel's location was reported by VSS Ugelik Stukhtra, of the familiar Voroth surveyor class, just where she was expected. Discussions back on Earth pivoted on whether to wake the crew or not, as their journey still had 16 years to complete. Arcturus had already been contacted by yet another Verne mission 11 years previously and trade runs had since been established. However, the prevailing argument was that the crew had no living dependents on Earth and waking them before they were able to experience their system approach seemed like an unnecessary spotlight on what they had sacrificed by taking on the mission in the first place. The repatriated crew of the Prometheus almost completely agreed with this viewpoint, so the decision was made to prepare





## COLUMBUS SERIES

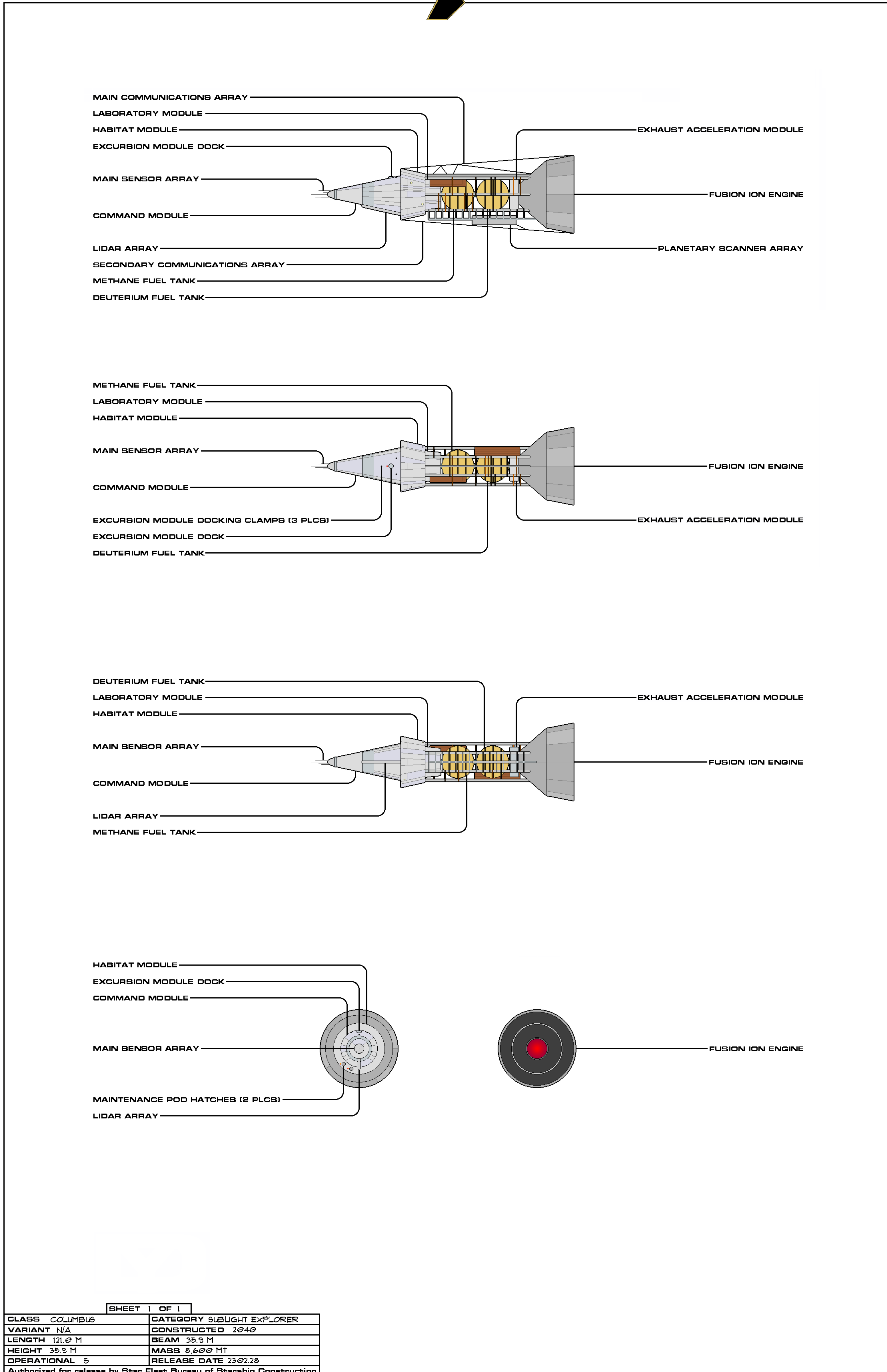
### GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

for the Hector's 2104 arrival, while also keeping an eye on the vessel's forward progress.

The waking of the crew occurred as programmed and while the ship was decelerating, chase ships provided by the Vulcans remained in her drive plume shadow, to allow the Humans the chance to become immersed in their pre-arrival procedures. Commander Jacob Fielding and his command team quickly detected a large volume of interplanetary signals; a few hours later they transmitted the preordained arrival report to Earth. However, before they could turn their attentions to the fourth planet orbiting the star Alpha Bootis, the computer indicated they had a reply on the command channel. Commanders Lucilla Ricks (UNSS Icarus) and Ademar Guerra (UNSS Prometheus), two very familiar faces from pre-launch training, welcomed them to the Arcturus system and provided an "elevator pitch" summary of what had transpired, as it related to the Columbus missions. Waiting for them planetside were another 23 former crewmembers of the two sister ships and the vice chairman of the United Earth Defense Pact (the de facto world government). They were enthusiastically greeted by their Human counterparts and Arcturian hosts, while the Vulcans observed stoically.

Once shuttled to the ground, they were introduced to the planet's chief executive and minister of state and the resident Vulcan ambassador, as well as representatives from other alien species present in the system. Professional in all matters, the individual Hector teams insisted on their primary mission, to learn about the Arcturus system and its martial but fashionable people, if only for their own enlightenment. A dedicated transport did depart for Earth six weeks later, but a third of the crew, including Commander Fielding, did ask for a longer respite on-planet before their own return to a world very much transformed and elevated since their departure 58 years earlier. Hector was decommissioned with practiced and ceremonious Arcturian solemnity mere minutes before Fielding warped for home at the end of the Sol year.





SHEET 1 OF 1

CLASS	COLUMBUS	CATEGORY	SUBLIGHT EXPLORER
VARIANT	N/A	CONSTRUCTED	2040
LENGTH	121.0 M	BEAM	35.9 M
HEIGHT	35.9 M	MASS	8,600 MT
OPERATIONAL	5	RELEASE DATE	2302.28
Authorized for release by Star Fleet Bureau of Starship Construction			



## CLASS TIMELINE

2040

The UNSS Columbus, first in an intended series of interstellar sublight explorers, launches for Saturn on a test run.

The Mediterranean Alliance forms.

The Vegan Tyranny is destroyed, resulting in the extinction of the Vegans.

2041

The United States begins assembly of a new Space Station Freedom, which will monitor near-space for threats to Earth (and the US) and will have construction berths.

The first Romulan-Klingon war begins.

The Tarl make radio first contact with the Draylaxians in sister system Epsilon Indi A, after detecting their signals.

2044

The scheduled mid-year launches of the five crewed Columbus interstellar missions are postponed until late 2045, to accommodate class-wide iterative equipment alternations.

2045

Analysis of interferometry telescropy and probe flybys confirm the existence of at least seven planets in the Alpha Centauri system, assuring the scientists that return propellant can be manufactured there and hinting at the presence of carbon-based life on the third and fourth planets.

The five Columbus series spacecraft are readied for xenosystem exploration.

The Andorian Empire reaches its height with the possession of thirteen colonies outside its home system.

A serious accident during the fueling of UNSS Columbus leads to eight fatalities and damage to the spacecraft.

2046

UNSS Nautilus boosts from Earth orbit for Tau Ceti (January); UNSS Hector for Arcturus (February); UNSS Prometheus for Epsilon Indi (March); UNSS Icarus for Alpha Centauri A (April).

UNSS Nautilus hits an object in the inner Oort cloud, resulting in complete destruction within days. The three remaining transiting vessels of the Columbus series are considered inevitable losses as communications with each is lost to ion storms.

2049

Five of the Akademik Mstislav Keldysh class cruisers are ordered for the interplanetary interests of the ECON.

Dr. Zefram Cochrane is provided a sizable sample of the red coral crystal, ununennium, from the Christopher mission and realizes that it exhibits attributes of the (extremely) theoretical hypersonic series.

US Strategic Command takes UNSS Columbus from NASA (though administered by the ISA) and begins adding armaments.

2051

Lee Kuan overthrows the emerging democratic movement within the government of the Eastern Coalition, cementing the ECON's hardline opposition-stance to the New United Nations' policies.

The Confederacy of Vulcan and Andorian Empire enter negotiations regarding the Andorian colony on Weytahn.

The arming of UNSS Columbus by US Strategic Command is completed; the ship begins low-profile patrols, generally in Earth orbit.

2053

Columbus is destroyed by an ECON attack while in orbit.

The climax of World War Three is reached when the ECON strikes the NUN states with nuclear attacks, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 600 million.

The main laboratory at Kashishowa Research Station literally disappears from the surface of Luna, taking most of the station with it and leaving behind a perfectly smooth crater 18 meters in diameter. This event appears to have resulted from an overload due to a warp drive experiment.

The global war concludes when several of Earth's governments meet in San Francisco to declare a cease-fire.

2063

Zefram Cochrane tests the Phoenix, demonstrating warp drive by achieving Warp 1 for approximately one minute in the Sol system. A passing Vulcan ship, the T'Plana-Hath, detects the warp signature and lands in Bozeman later that evening, officially making first contact with Humans.

2065

The first official diplomatic expedition from Vulcan arrives on Earth and influences talks regarding the Sparon-DeSoto treaty, which forces the national militaries to crew their armed spacecraft with international members.

The infrastructure to build warp engines is being erected at a breakneck pace, revitalizing transportation and communication and totally relocating the industry in a way that makes many former political boundaries meaningless.

The New United Nations is resurrected, in accordance with the Sparon-DeSoto treaty. The Earth Cargo Authority is one of its first established departments.

UNSS Icarus arrives in the Alpha Centauri system, extends her sensor gear, and is hit by radio-frequency broadcasts, low enough in power not to be discernible outside the systems' ionization bubbles but still undoubtedly marks of advanced civilizations. A first contact report is





## CLASS TIMELINE

radioed back to Earth.

2066

UNSS Icarus departs the Alpha Centauri system to return to Earth.

2070

The first attempt to build a working transporter is deemed a failure. Its inventor, Colin Blakeney, is lost under mysterious circumstances. His disappearance sets back research into transporter technology for decades to come.

A radio wave signal from UNSS Icarus arrives at Earth, announcing their contact with an advanced civilization in the Alpha Centauri system (on 12 May, 2065).

2071

A Verne class survey cruiser makes first contact with the Draylaxians.

2077

First contact between the Arcturians and Humans by a Verne mission.

2080

UNSS Prometheus arrives in the Epsilon Indi system (after 34 years of sublight travel) and quickly detects the marks of an advanced civilization. They discover not only the friendly alien civilizations of the Draylaxians and Tarl (and visiting Vulcans), but also the presence of Humans who had arrived earlier via warp drive.

2085

UNSS Icarus arrives back in orbit of Earth, 39 years after departing. A few Centaurians the crew had met in their system are on hand to greet them.

2088

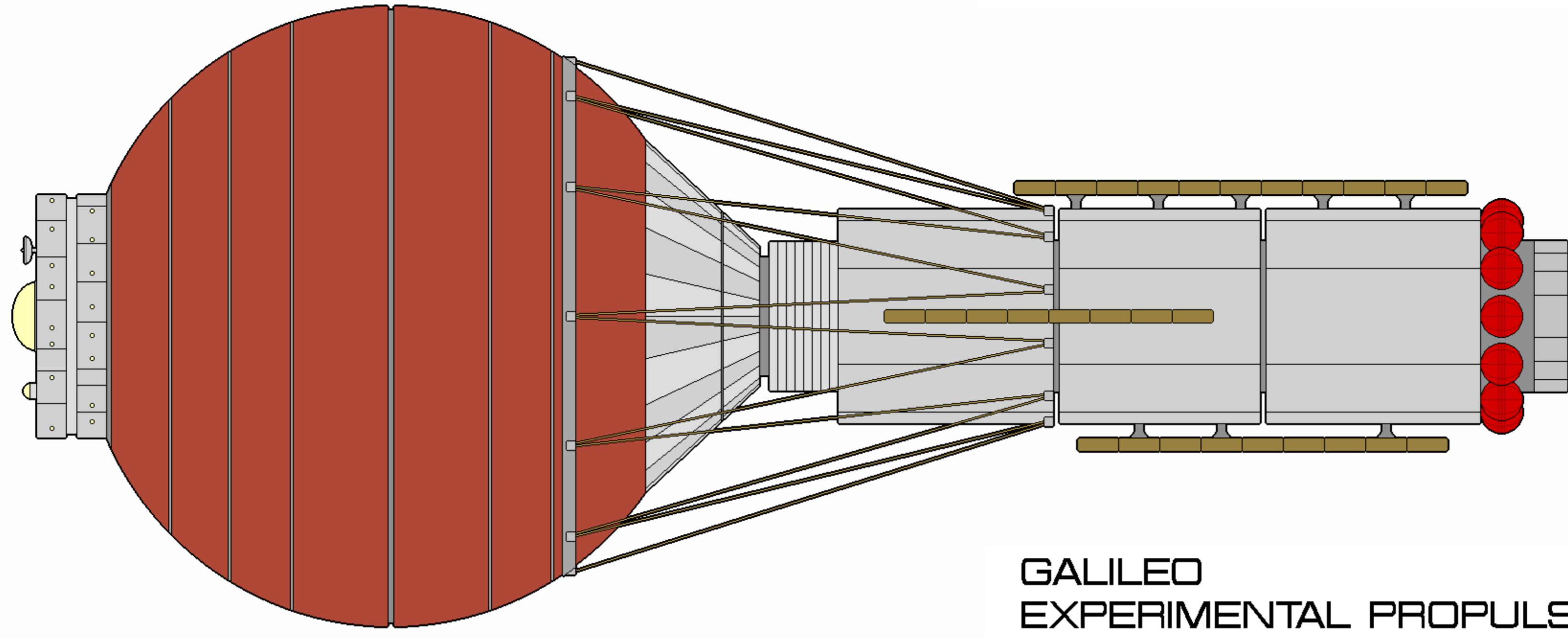
The UEDF establishes the Military Assault Command Operations (MACO) special forces organization.

VSS Ugelik Stukhtra (Vorothe class surveyor) locates the slumbering UNSS Hector (Columbus interstellar explorer) continuing along its route to Arcturus.

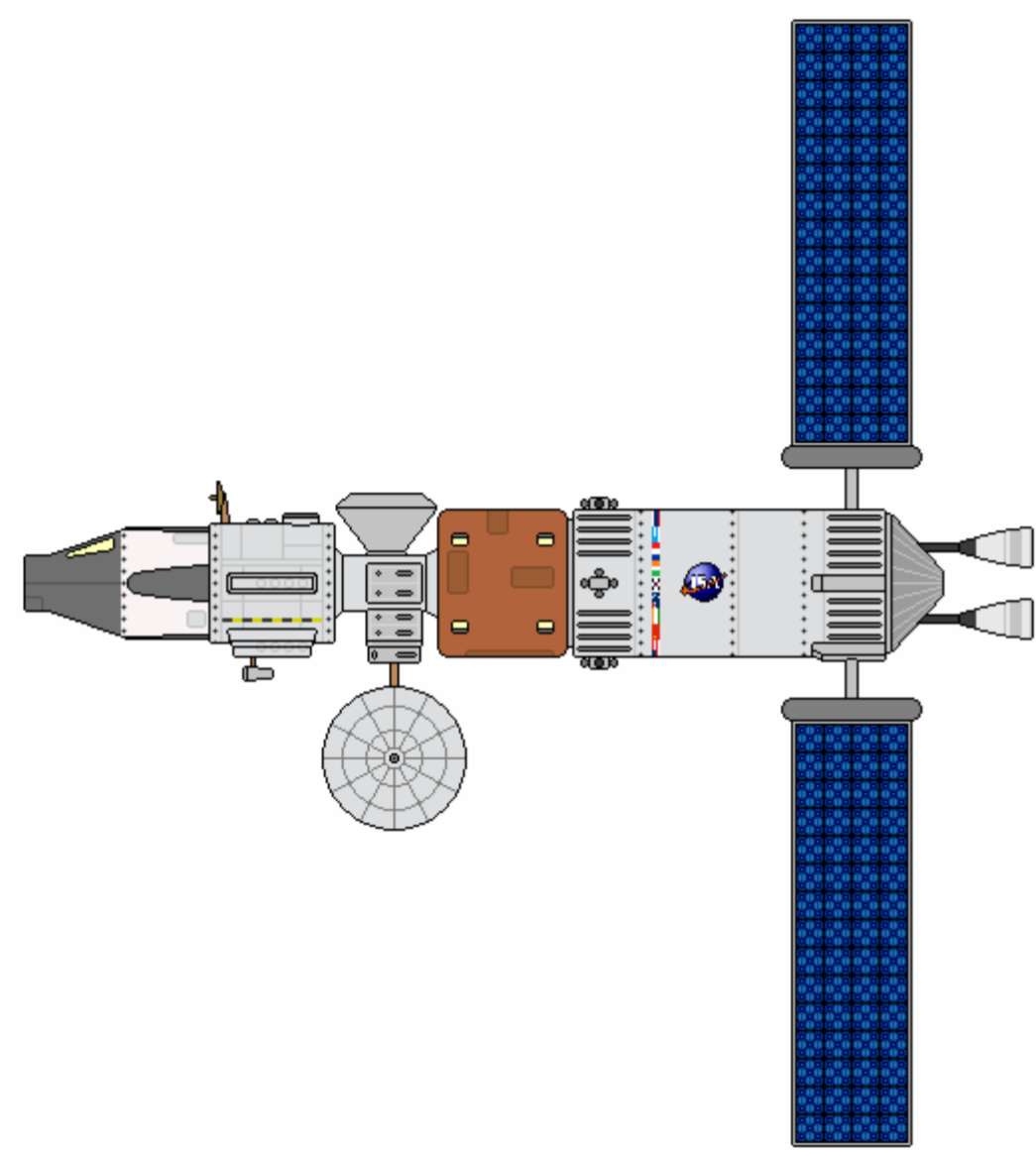
2104

UNSS Hector arrives in the Arcturus system (after 58 years of sublight travel) and is greeted by crewmembers of her sister Columbus ships, as well as Arcturians and Vulcans. The ship is decommissioned in stellar orbit, as the last crew members return to Earth.

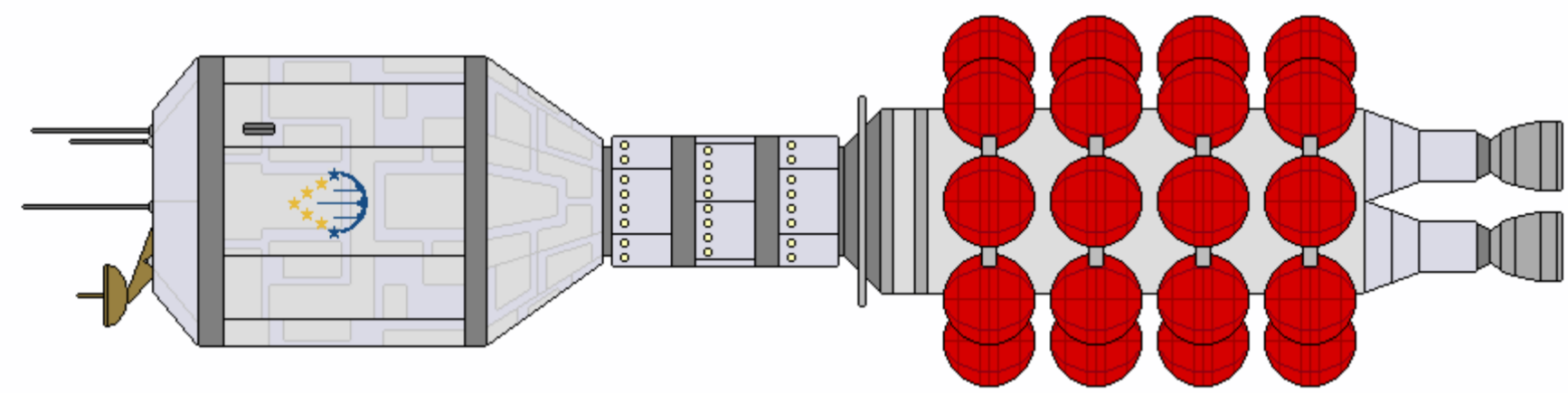
# STARSHIP COMPARISON GUIDE



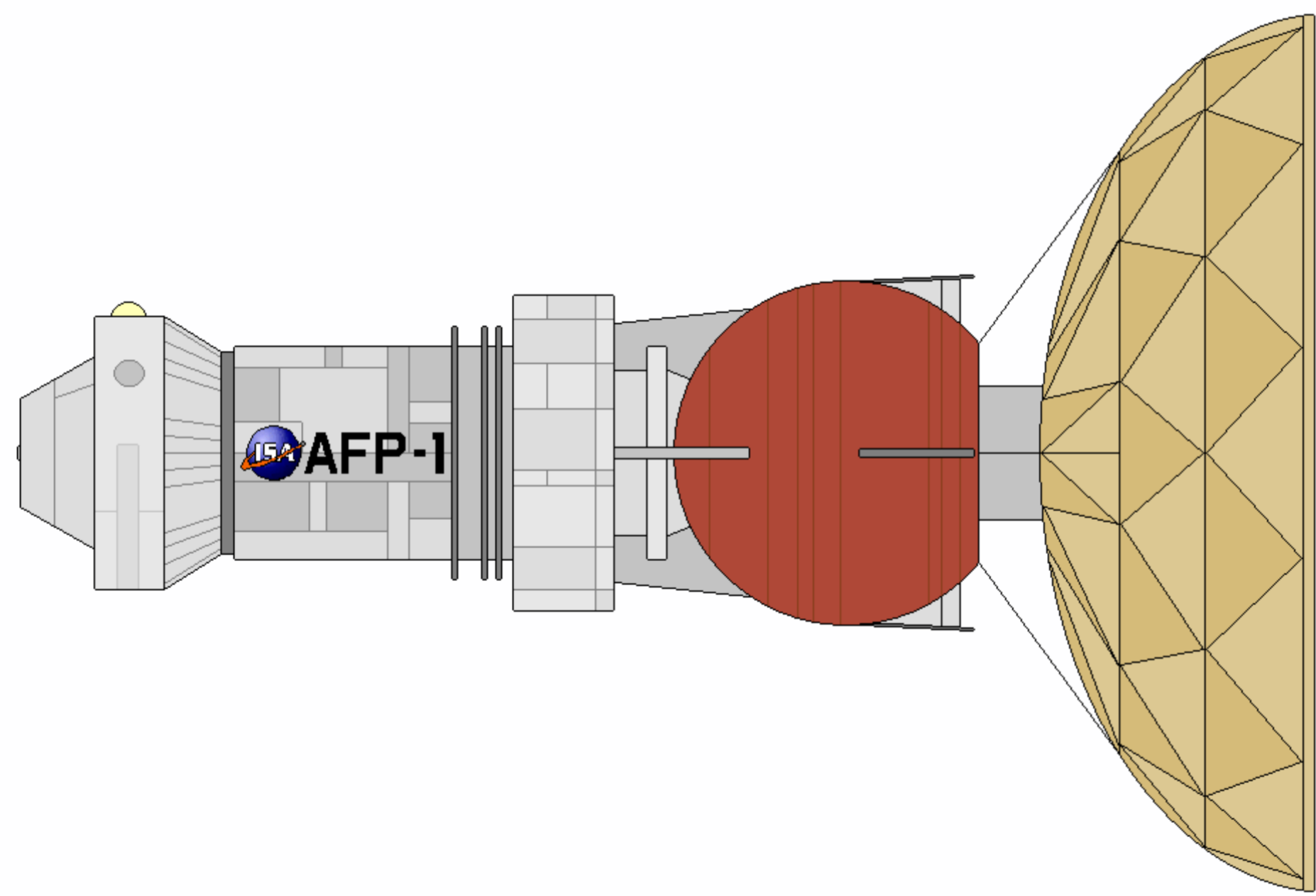
GALILEO  
EXPERIMENTAL PROPULSION SHIP (2028)



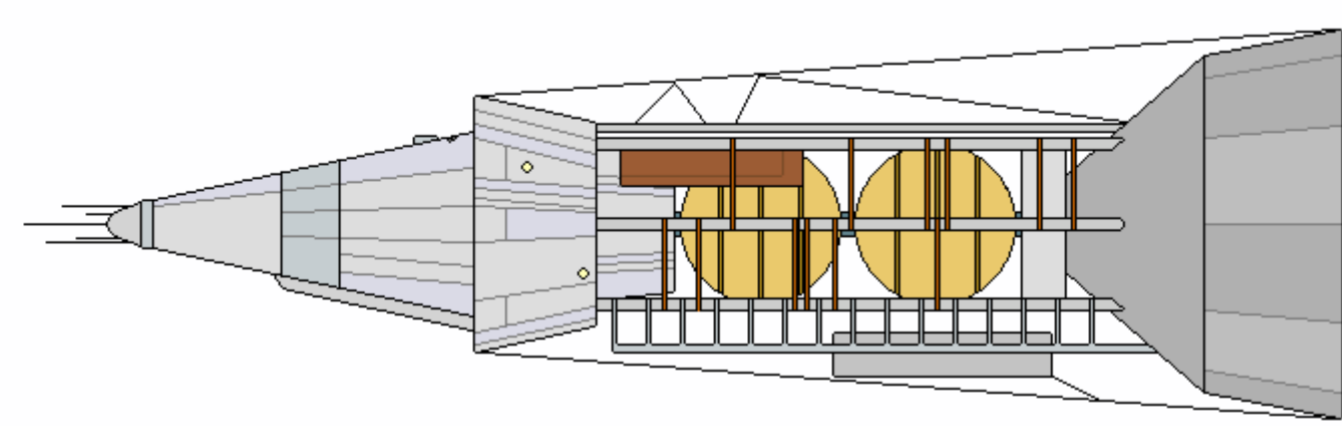
ARES  
MISSION SPACECRAFT (2030)



COMPANION  
CRUISER (2033)



AFP-1  
EXPERIMENTAL PROPULSION SHIP (2035)



COLUMBUS  
INTERSTELLAR EXPLORER





## GLOSSARY

**40 Eridani:** A trinary system, also known as Omicron<sup>2</sup> Eridani, Vulcanis, and Ko'vel; home system of the Vulcan species.

**Alpha Bootis:** (see Arcturus)

**Alpha Centauri:** A trinary system, also known as Rigil Kentaurus and Al Rijil; home system of the semi-indigenous Centaurians.

**Alpha Centauri III:** A class L planet in the Alpha Centauri system, also known as Alpha Centauri AB III and Seldarian.

**Alpha Centauri Prime:** A class M planet in the Alpha Centauri system, also known as Alpha Centauri, Alpha Centauri IV, Alpha Centauri AB IV, and Velestus; home world of the semi-indigenous Centaurians.

**Arcturus:** A K-class star system, also known as Benis Multalis and Alpha Bootis; home system of the Arcturians.

**Class H:** A classification for an inhabitable planet rated as desert. These worlds are almost entirely desert; at most they have only 20% of their surface covered in water. Young planets of four to six billion years old tend to be rocky, while those that are older tend to be covered in sand. Life can evolve here, but it is limited; plants tend to be small, as do animals. Weather tends to be dry, with sandstorms and still days with few clouds. Some have snow on their poles and can experience wider variations of weather. They are often incapable of naturally supporting populations above a hundred million humanoid lifeforms. Vulcan is an example Class H world.

**Class K:** A classification for an inhabitable (when domed) planet rated as adaptable. These planets are much like their Class H counterparts, but the atmosphere is too weak for most complex lifeforms. Only capable of supporting single-cell life, they are not considered inhabitable and fluctuations in temperature would kill most humanoids over a few days. They can, however, be colonized with pressurized domes. Mars is an example Class K world.

**Class L:** A classification for an inhabitable planet rated as marginal. These worlds are young planets that have not yet developed animal life. They tend to be covered in forests and plants that are broken down by simple organisms and fungi. Water is not common and those with less than 20% surface coverage fall to being Class H. These planets, however, are perfect for colonization and terraforming. Impact of native life is minimal and minimum effort is needed. Seldarian is an example Class L world.

**Draylax:** A class H planet in the Epsilon Indi system, also known as Epsilon Indi A II; home world of the Draylaxians.

**Earth:** A class M planet in the Sol system, also known as Terra, Sol IV, Sol Prime; home world of the Humans.

**ECON:** Eastern Coalition; a political and military alliance formed in 2031 between the nations of the Eurasian Confederation and China, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Singapore, and Vietnam. The alliance subsumed the members into one nation-state in 2055.

**Epsilon Indi:** A trinary star system; home system to the Draylaxians and the semi-indigenous Tarl.

**Epsilon Indi A:** A K-class star in the Epsilon Indi system; host star of the planet Draylax.

**Epsilon Indi C:** A M-class star in the Epsilon Indi system; host star of the planet Tarl.

**Epsilon Indi C I:** (see Tarl)

**Harauk:** (see Class H)

**Inertial stabilizer:** A predecessor to the modern-day inertial damping field; developed in 2036 (on Earth), operates as a series of low-strength electromagnetic fields that attempt to absorb and counteract the velocity forces generated by the ship's maneuvers.

**Interferometry:** A technique using the interference of superimposed waves (typically electromagnetic) to extract information.

**ISA:** International Space Agency, a NUN agency on pre-Unification Earth, formed in 2018 and serving as a conduit for peaceful and cooperative space activities by the major space-capable nations, and later for most space activities of any entity, including corporations, organizations, and private individuals. Succeeded by both the UESPA and UESN in 2067 and 2069, respectively.

**Kesh:** (see Class K)



## GLOSSARY

Leonine: Resembling a (Earth) lion.

NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, an independent agency of the United States government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and space research.

NUN: New United Nations. Formed in 2011, first dissolved in 2053 (during the Third World War), re-formed in 2065 (two years following First Contact), then finally dissolved in 2079. Authorized the formation of the ISA (2018), UESPA (2067), UEDP and UESN (both 2069). Succeeded by the UEDP.

Seldarian: (see Alpha Centauri III)

Semi-indigenous: A description generally describing a sentient species in relation to a planet they consider their home world, despite there being no historic or scientific indication as to their point of origin. Example: Centaurians are semi-indigenous to Alpha Centauri Prime.

Sol: A G-class star system; home system of the Humans.

Tarl: A class K planet in the Epsilon Indi system, also known as Epsilon Indi C I; home world of the semi-indigenous Tarl species.

TAU: Thousand Astronomical Unit; the designation for the NASA extrasolar exploration vessels that launched in 2036.

Tau Ceti: A G-class star system; home system of the Kaferians.

Telemetry: The process of recording and transmitting the readings of an instrument.

UEDP: United Earth Defense Pact. Formed by the NUN in 2069 to put the "Earth's ascendancy and safety ahead of national goals". Tasked with the combined command and control of the planet's various armed forces, it became the de facto world government upon the NUN's second dissolution in 2079, until superseded by the United Earth government in 2130.

United States Strategic Command: An American combatant command tasked with overseeing the military assets above the Earth's atmosphere.

UNSS: United Nations Space Ship; ship prefix for the names of the non-enforcement/governmental interplanetary vessels of the United Nations and the NUN's early interstellar vessels operated by the ISA.

Velestus: (see Alpha Centauri Prime)





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## **REPORTS**

- AFP-1 experimental propulsion ship
- APHRODITE mission spacecraft
- ARES mission spacecraft
- AVENTEUR mission spacecraft
- BONAVENTURE survey cruiser
- BONAVENTURE dilithium power testbed
- BURKE frigates
- CAVALRY light destroyers
- COLUMBUS interstellar explorers
- COMPANION cruisers
- CONSTITUTION heavy cruisers
- DURANCE cargo tugs
- DY sublight interplanetary transports
- GALILEO experimental propulsion ship
- HORIZON heavy cruisers
- SYRACUSE destroyers
- TAU extrasolar exploration vessels
- TRENT destroyers

