

# Image Sensors Enhance Camera Technologies



*Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

*Aptina Imaging Corporation  
San Jose, California*

## Originating Technology/NASA Contribution

- ◆ JPL researchers explored ways to significantly miniaturize cameras on interplanetary spacecraft while maintaining scientific image quality
- ◆ A team led by Eric Fossum developed an energy-efficient light sensor with all of its components integrated on a single chip



## Partnership

- ◆ Fossum and other JPL engineers licensed the sensor technology and founded Photobit to pursue commercial applications
- ◆ The company was acquired and later spun out as Aptina
- ◆ The technology and its inventors were inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame

## Product Outcome

- ◆ The NASA-derived sensors are now incorporated into digital cameras, automotive and surveillance cameras, and medical imaging devices
- ◆ One of every three cell phone cameras worldwide features Aptina's sensors
- ◆ The company has shipped over 1 billion sensors