

Re: HUBBLE CONFIRMS NEW MOONS OF PLUTO (STScI-PRC06-09)

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- *From:* ackthpt@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 22 Feb 2006 10:25:34 -0800
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NEWS ALERT wrote:

EMBARGOED UNTIL: 1:00 pm (EST) February 22, 2006

PHOTO NO.: STScI-PRC06-09

HUBBLE CONFIRMS NEW MOONS OF PLUTO

Astronomers using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope have confirmed the presence of two new moons around the distant planet Pluto. The moons were first discovered by Hubble in May 2005, but the Pluto Companion Search team probed even deeper into the Pluto system with Hubble on Feb. 15 to look for additional satellites and to characterize the orbits of the moons. In the image, Pluto is in the center and Charon is just below it. The moons, provisionally designated S/2005 P 1 and S/2005 P 2, are located to the right of Pluto and Charon. The initial discovery is being reported today in this week's edition of the British science journal Nature.

Credit: NASA, ESA, H. Weaver (Johns Hopkins University/Applied Physics Laboratory), A. Stern (Southwest Research Institute) and the HST Pluto Companion Search Team

For images and additional information about this research on the Web, visit:

<http://hubblesite.org/news/2006/09>

<http://www.jhuapl.edu/newscenter/pressreleases/2006/060222.asp>

<http://www.boulder.swri.edu/recent/>

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The Hubble Space Telescope is a project of international cooperation

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between NASA and the European Space Agency. The Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore conducts Hubble science operations. The Institute is operated for NASA by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., Washington.

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Judging from their positions they look like they don't all share the same orbital plane. Captured objects?