

# HUBBLE FINDS THAT THE 'TENTH PLANET' IS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN PLUTO (STScI-PR06-16)

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## HUBBLE FINDS THAT THE 'TENTH PLANET' IS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN PLUTO

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has resolved the "tenth planet," nicknamed "Xena," for the first time and has found that it is only just a little larger than Pluto. Though previous ground-based observations suggested that Xena was about 30 percent greater in diameter than Pluto, Hubble observations taken on Dec. 9 and 10, 2005, yield a diameter of 1,490 miles (with an uncertainty of 60 miles) for Xena. Pluto's diameter, as measured by Hubble, is 1,422 miles.

Xena is officially catalogued as 2003 UB313. It is the large object at the bottom of this artist's concept. A portion of its surface is lit by the Sun, located in the upper left corner of the image. Xena's companion, Gabrielle, is located just above and to the left of Xena.

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

<http://hubblesite.org/news/2006/16>

<http://www.nasa.gov/hubble>

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The Hubble Space Telescope is a project of international cooperation 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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