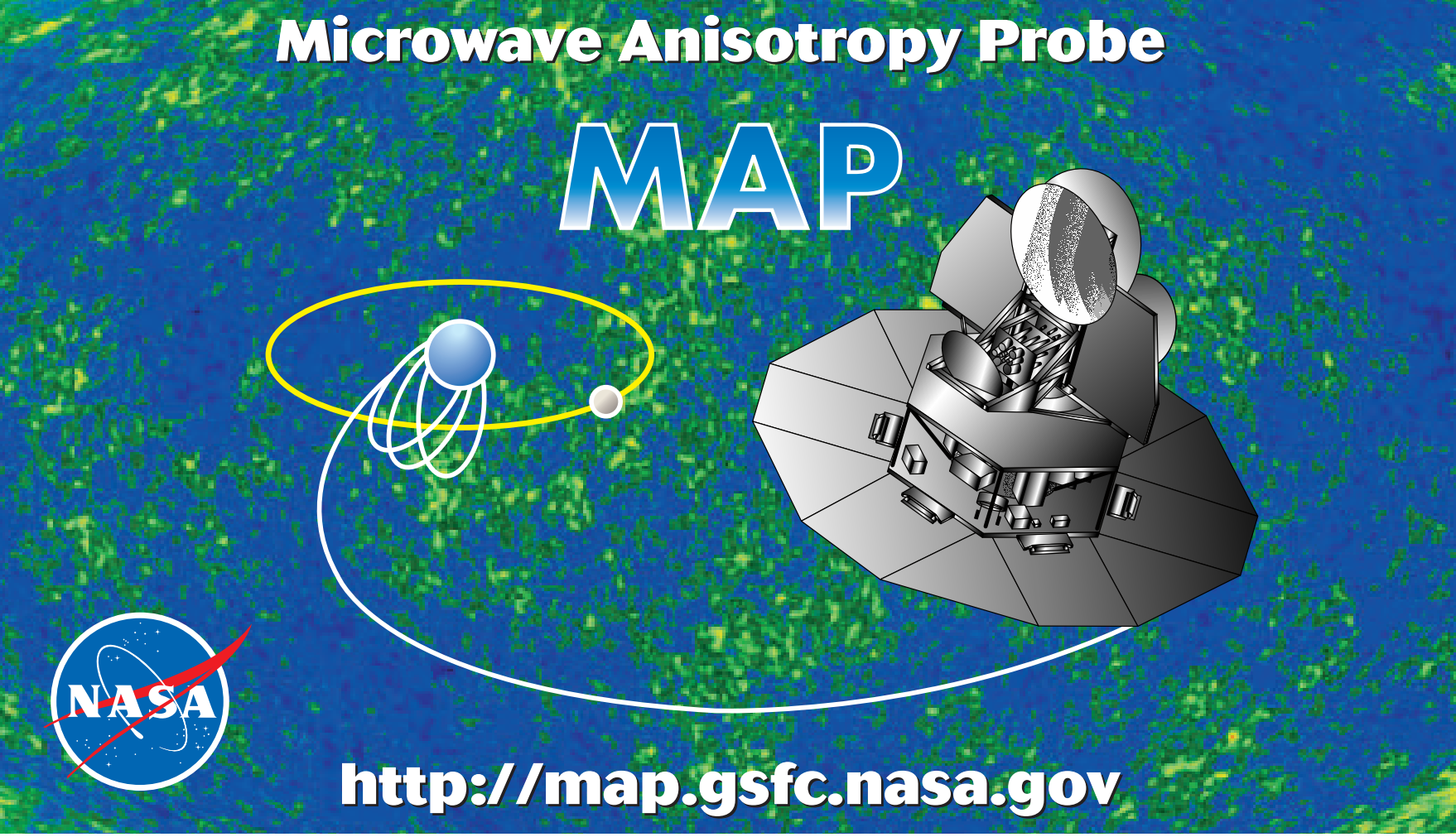

MAP

The Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) Medium Explorer (MIDEX) satellite observing at the Sun-Earth Lagrange point, L2, 1.5 million km beyond Earth. The white line is the path MAP will follow to reach L2, which includes Earth-Moon phasing loops and a lunar swingby. The backdrop is a false-color simulation of the cosmic microwave background temperature variations that MAP will study in detail. The cosmic microwave background is the remnant afterglow of the Big Bang, and the tiny temperature variations from place to place on the sky provide a wealth of information about the basic nature of our universe.

http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov