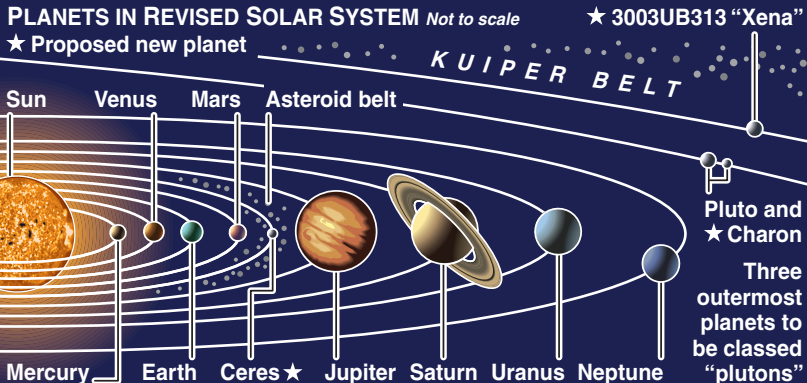


# The changing view of our solar system

The world's astronomers are to vote on a new definition of the word "planet" which could see our solar system expanded from nine to 12 spherical bodies. If approved, there are likely to be more planets to come



**JUDGING CRITERIA** ► *Object must orbit a star but must not itself be a star*

► *Object must have enough mass for gravity to make it a roughly spherical shape*

FUTURE CANDIDATE PLANETS	2003 EL61	2005 FY9	Sedna	Orcus	Quaoar	2002 TX300
<b>Diameter</b>	2,000km	2,000km	1,800km	1,600km	1,250km	900km
<b>Class</b>	KBO	KBO	KBO	KBO	KBO	KBO
<b>Orbit*</b>	285 yrs	310 yrs	12,000 yrs	247 yrs	286 yrs	283 yrs
	2002 AW197	Varuna	Ixion	Vesta	Pallas	Hygiea
<b>Diameter</b>	900km	900km	800km	530km	525km	450km
<b>Class</b>	KBO	KBO	KBO	Asteroid	Asteroid	Asteroid
<b>Orbit*</b>	327 yrs	283 yrs	249 yrs	3.6 yrs	4.6 yrs	5.5 yrs

\*Time taken to orbit sun in Earth years. KBO = Kuiper Belt Object

Earth to scale