

**“Samples from the Sun
NASA’s GENESIS Mission, Crash, and Recovery”**

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On September 8, 2004, the United States' first robotic sample return capsule crashed in the Utah desert. The GENESIS capsule contained samples of solar wind captured over two years as the spacecraft traveled a million miles from the Earth. The goal was to use these samples to determine the isotopic composition of the Sun, revealing clues to how our solar system was formed.

In spite of the crash, many of the samples were recovered in good condition, and are now being analyzed. Dr. Wiens, who has worked on the GENESIS mission since 1990, will describe the mission, relate the story of the crash, and will explain the science results now being obtained from the GENESIS samples.