DAY 1

PRESS RELEASE

NEWLY DISCOVERED ASTEROID POSES SMALL RISK OF EARTH IMPACT

College Park, Maryland, USA – April 29, 2019 – The International Asteroid Warning Network has announced that a recently discovered near-Earth asteroid could pass very close to the Earth 8 years from now, on April 29, 2027, and there is a small chance – 1 in 100 -- that it could impact our planet.

The asteroid, designated 2019 PDC, was discovered on March 26, 2019, by the Pan-STARRS near-Earth object survey project operated by the University of Hawaii for the NASA Planetary Defense Program, and it has been tracked nightly since then by astronomers around the world. Impact monitoring systems at NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and ESA's NEO Coordination Centre determined from the observations that the chance of impact in 2027 is 1 in 100. That is, chances are 99 out of 100 that the asteroid will safely pass by our planet in 2027.

Astronomers will be able to track 2019 PDC through January 2020 and contribute additional observations to refine the orbit and possibly eliminate the risk of impact in 2027.

Based on the apparent brightness of 2019 PDC, astronomers now estimate that the asteroid is roughly 100 to 300 meters (330 to 1000 feet) in size. The asteroid will approach within 19 million kilometers (12 million miles) of Earth on May 13, but by the end of the year it will no longer be observable by Earth-based telescopes. It will not make another close approach to Earth until 2027.

The International Asteroid Warning Network is disseminating the present information pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/90, paragraph 9. The International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) is an international network of organizations that detect, track and characterize potentially hazardous asteroids. IAWN will publish weekly updates of impact probability as this asteroid is tracked throughout 2019.

For more information, see https://cneos.jpl.nasa.gov/pd/cs/pdc19/day1.html and www.iawn.net.

Contact: http://iawn.net/misc/contacts.shtml
