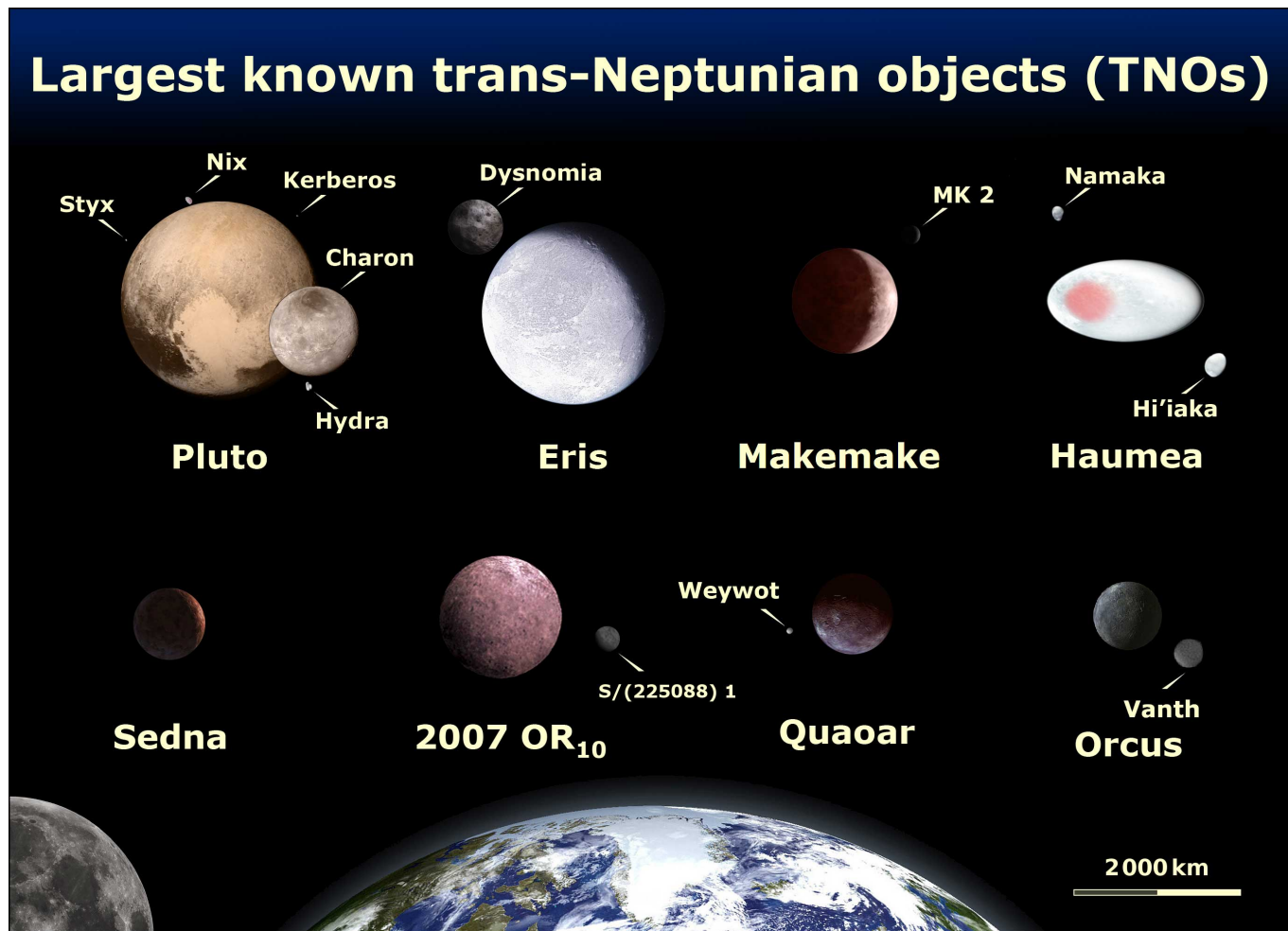


9.3: The Oort Cloud and Kuiper Belt

The **Oort Cloud** is a hypothesized spherical cloud of icy objects up to 50,000 AU from the sun. This spherical cloud is the primary source of long-period comets. No Oort Cloud objects have been found, to date. Any object within the Oort Cloud would be called an **Oort Cloud Object, (OCO)**. The Oort Cloud would represent the physical boundary of the solar system.



CC BY-SA 3.0 | Image courtesy of NASA and Wikimedia Author: Lexicon.

This page titled [9.3: The Oort Cloud and Kuiper Belt](#) is shared under a [CC BY 4.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Lumen Learning](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.