



GODDARD NEWS

Greenbelt, Maryland/Wallops Island, Virginia

The Goddard News is published weekly by the Office of Public Affairs, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 Goddard Space Flight Center
 Greenbelt, Maryland/Wallops Island, Virginia

August 6, 1999

****NOTE:** Our apology for the multiple deliveries of Goddard News to your email -- there was a blimp in the system delivery process which caused this error - it was not intentional. **

The Goddard News is published weekly by the Office of Public Affairs, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771

Safety – Our Number One Value

Table of Contents

<u>House to Take Up NASA Funding Bill in September</u>	<u>Astronomer Salvages Stellar Science from NASA's WIRE Mission</u>
<u>Goddard to Institute Water Conservation Plan</u>	<u>Goddard's ISO Registration Audit is Coming</u>
<u>View an Eclipse on the Internet</u>	<u>The ODIN Help Desk Has Moved</u>
<u>Applications Being Sought for Project Development Process Workshop</u>	<u>Press Releases from the past week</u>
<u>Goddard's Flight Projects Directorate Being Renamed and Restructured</u>	<u>Education Highlights</u>
<u>EEO Workshop Scheduled for August</u>	<u>August 6 Seminar</u>

House to Take Up NASA Funding Bill in September

When the House of Representatives returns from its August recess, one of its early actions will be to take up H.R. 2684, the Fiscal Year 2000 appropriations bill for VA-HUD and Independent Agencies, the bill which funds NASA.

This week, the House Appropriations Committee passed a VA-HUD and Independent Agencies bill that proposes to reduce NASA funding by \$924.6 million from the President's \$13.578 request for NASA. On

July 26, an appropriations subcommittee had slashed the NASA funding request by \$1.325 billion, but the full appropriations committee added \$400 million to VA-HUD bill. While this is certainly good news,, the added funds did not dramatically improve Goddard's budget picture.

Potentially 53 percent of the proposed cut in NASA's science, research and technology budget will come from Goddard and the Wallops Flight Facility.

The hit to Goddard is particularly hard because nearly 48 percent (\$449 million) of the cuts made by the appropriations committee was taken from NASA's space science and earth science programs. Goddard is the Agency's center of excellence in scientific research, NASA's lead center for the Earth Science Enterprise, and a world-class technology center.

Under the appropriations committee's proposal, Goddard's Space Science budget could be reduced as much as \$94 million or 39% of the reduction to NASA's space science account. The Center's Earth Science budget could be reduced as much as \$173 million or 61% of the reduction to the Agency's earth science account.

The out-year impact has the potential to be even more devastating due to the magnitude of the cuts and the outright elimination of future science and technology programs at Goddard. Total reductions to Goddard's budget over the next five years could be almost \$2 billion.

Local economic impact would be significant. The committee's proposed NASA budget could cut Goddard by about \$275 million in FY 2000. This could potentially translate into a loss in excess of 2500 jobs, half of which would likely be in local Maryland (Greenbelt) and Virginia (Wallops) communities.

The House's counterpart – the Senate appropriations subcommittee for VA–HUD and Independent Agencies - is expected to take up its own funding bill in early September when the Senate returns from its August recess. After both bills have cleared their respective chambers, differences between the separate House and Senate funding bills will be hammered out in a House-Senate conference, and the bill will then go to the President for signature or veto.

To monitor the progress of the NASA funding bills as they proceed through the Congress, check out the latest news on the HQ Legislative Affairs web site at: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/legaff/>

[Back to top](#)

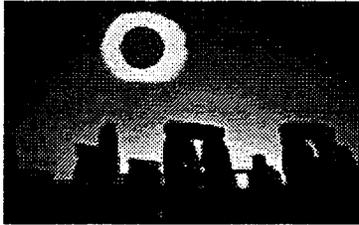
Goddard to Institute Water Conservation Plan

Maryland Governor Parris Glendening on Wednesday placed mandatory restrictions on water usage throughout the state. The Executive Order requires all Marylanders to conserve water by eliminating nearly all outdoor water use. The measures apply to all individuals, businesses and governments in every jurisdiction. Goddard will institute a water conservation plan for on-site employees. Immediately, the Center is adopting several conservation measures, including no more government car washing by code 230 and landscape watering using pond water only. Also, we are promoting voluntary water conservation measures in the fitness lab and other operational change rooms. Next week, the Center will come out with a list of additional measures to conserve our water resources. Our goal is to reduce water consumption by 10 percent. For information about the drought, Marylanders can call the Department of Environment's toll-free hotline at 1-877-DROUGHT (376-8448), or check the Governor's web page at

<http://www.gov.state.md.us> and click on the drought information. Let's all do our part and help the State conserve on water usage.

[Back to top](#)

View an Eclipse on the Internet



Various GSFC organizations are collaborating with the GSFC Sun Earth Connection Education Forum (SECEF) on an education outreach project to provide web viewing of a total solar eclipse on Wednesday, August 11. Live images, photometer readings, and weather data will be delivered to the Internet via TDRSS in real-time from a prototype Internet "spacecraft" onboard a cruise ship in the Black Sea.

The Operating Missions as Nodes on the Internet (OMNI) project in Code 588 built and integrated the "spacecraft" to capture and relay the data. If you would like to be ready to participate in this eclipse-on-the-web event and help developers test the system, please go to <http://eclipse99.nasa.gov/> and follow the GO LIVE! NASA link.

[Back to top](#)

Applications Being Sought for Project Development Process Workshop

Applications for NASA's "Project Development Process - Accelerating Leadership Option" are currently being sought from all current GSFC career and career conditional employees through August 13. The Project is a new and exciting program designed to prepare selectees for leadership of Goddard's many technical programs and projects. For more information and a copy of the announcement, go to Goddard's Office of Human Resources Web Site at: <http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/GSFC/Vacancy/PMDDP.htm> or contact Mark Goldman at extension 6-8852. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to Nelson Rodriguez at extension 6-2883.

[Back to top](#)

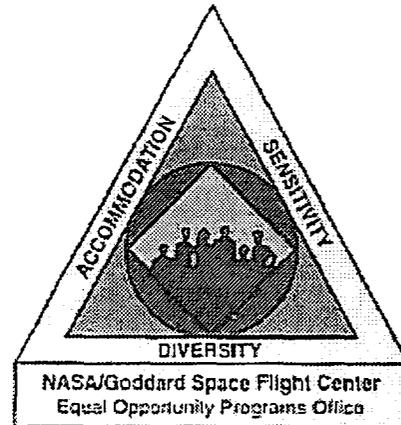
Goddard's Flight Projects Directorate Being Renamed and Restructured

The Flight Projects Directorate at Goddard received Center Director Al Diaz's approval on July 23 to implement its reorganization plan. The reorganization will establish ten new program areas along with several new projects. For a look at the new Code 400 Flight Programs and Projects Directorate reorganization chart, go to: <http://fpd.gsfc.nasa.gov/> and choose Projects from left-side navigation bar and then choose switch to Org. Chart Navigation in upper left-corner.

[Back to top](#)

EEO Workshop Scheduled for August

The Equal Opportunity Program Office at Goddard is sponsoring a workshop called "Leading From the Inside Out" August 25 and 26 at Montpelier Mansion in Laurel, Md. By using a variety of processes and interactions, the workshop fosters risk-taking and develops compassionate interactions in order to help each participant make more satisfying and meaningful contributions in work and life. Each participant will identify personal core values, understand how they are expressed or not expressed in his or her current life and work, develop a vision for the future, learn some self management processes and a leadership model, and develop a personal action plan.

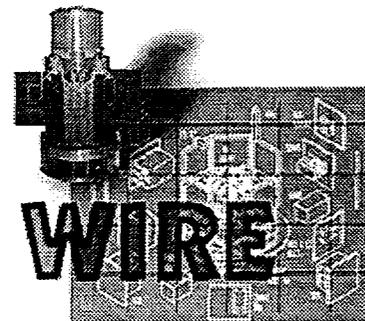


If you are interested in attending the workshop, send an e-mail message to: Tracey.Roberts@gssc.nasa.gov or call her at extension 6-5378.

[Back to top](#)

Astronomer Salvages Stellar Science from NASA's WIRE Mission

When the Wide-Field Infrared Explorer (WIRE) Observatory suffered an anomaly that caused the release of all of its instrument cryogen early this year, the science community wrote it off as a mission failure. The primary instrument, an infrared telescope, had been rendered useless by the on-orbit problem.



However, University of California at Berkeley research physicist Derek Buzasi saw opportunity. He immediately approached NASA about using the spacecraft star tracker, a two-inch telescope originally intended to aid in pointing the satellite. While a two-inch diameter telescope on the ground is little more than a toy, in space and above Earth's atmosphere it is capable of doing real astronomical research, reasoned Buzasi. He was right. Not long after NASA granted him access, Buzasi was able to observe a nearby cool star and record starquakes - the first time anyone has observed such vibrations on a normal, cool star.

"People have been trying to do this for 30 years," Buzasi said. Detailed recording of the frequency and amplitude of brightness changes that accompany starquakes can give astronomers a wealth of information, from the star's mass and age to its chemical composition deep into the core.

"It is a spectacular thing he has done," said Pierre Demarque, professor emeritus of astronomy at Yale University. "What he has done can only be done from space - it's a first. It is the beginning of a new field of stellar astronomy: stellar seismology."

Buzasi has submitted two papers about his technique and the discovery of starquakes on the star, alpha Ursae Majoris, to the Astrophysical Journal. Alpha Ursae Majoris is a bright yellow giant sitting at the lip of the Big Dipper. Part of a two-star system, it lies about 100 light years, or about 600 trillion miles, from Earth.

"I was lucky that WIRE retained the full capability of the star tracker and that the CCD camera attached to it is better than most star trackers need," said Buzasi. "WIRE points amazingly well."

[Back to top](#)

Education Highlights

K-12 Education Programs Wind Down

If the cafeterias at Goddard have looked particularly crowded of late, it's because the Center has sponsored a large number of programs for teachers and students this summer.

The **Urban Teachers Workshop**, which included five teams of five teachers from four urban school districts, including Baltimore City, Bridgeport, Conn., Scranton, Pa., and Jersey City, NJ. The teams were here for two weeks and developed action plans for implementation during the next school year.

The **Ambassadors Program** included 21 teachers from Maryland, Connecticut, West Virginia, and California. This program provided support to multiple science projects and ran for four weeks. The result is a series of Earth and Space Science investigations for use by classroom teachers throughout the United States. The investigations are available on the web through the education homepage at: <http://education.gsfc.nasa.gov>

The **Prince George's County School System Teacher Intern Program**, which operated for five weeks with 11 teachers selected by the county's science department, worked to incorporate NASA science and education products into curriculum support fashioned to the Prince George's County Schools.

The **NEWMAST** program for 25 individual teachers from across the United States operated for two weeks, including one week at Wallops.

Two separate one-week workshops were held for the Maine State Department of Education. Each workshop included approximately 20 Maine teachers. One workshop focused on high school and earth system science, and the other for a combined grade level group focusing on space science.

The **National Space Club Scholars** brought 25 high quality high school students to GSFC to participate in an internship program for six weeks.

The **SHARP** program provided 24 high school students a six-week experience with a focus on minority student involvement in NASA science and technology.

Additionally, the education office hosted a symposium related to visualization and GSFC's role in data analysis and interpretation and the importance of that visualization effort in improving the quality of life. The symposium featured Fritz Hasler, Dave Adamec, and Jim Irons of the Earth Science Directorate. The auditorium in building 3 was filled to capacity by teachers, students, and graduate fellows who were at GSFC during the summer.

The education office thanks all of the mentors and the Goddard community at large for being supportive of programmatic efforts and helping to ensure the value of earth and space sciences and supporting technologies among our youth.

Goddard Education Receives \$50,000 Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has notified the GSFC education office that it has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to pursue the development of an electronic feedback system on education products. Dr. Robert Gabrys, the Center's education officer, said the overall design of the project will be based upon building a system for providing electronic feedback to teachers and scientist/engineer mentors who developed education materials for teacher use. The electronic feedback system will be Internet-based, provide the opportunity for pilot testing on a nation-wide basis stratified by elementary, middle, and high school levels and urban, suburban, and rural environments. Once completed the system will be available Center-wide.

To stay up-to-date on Education Programs visit their homepage at <http://education.gsfc.nasa.gov>

[Back to top](#)



Goddard's ISO Registration Audit is Coming

August 23 to 27 at Goddard

August 30 to Sept. 3 at Wallops

Are You Ready?

For the latest on the ISO 9001 registration status, check out the web site at

<http://arioch.gsfc.nasa.gov/iso9000/index.htm>

[Back to top](#)



The ODIN Help Desk Has Moved

Just a reminder for ODIN customers, Intellisource began help desk support from Glenn Research Center in Cleveland on July 12. You can expect significant improvement in services including current customer data, faster response, minimal chance of lost or misdirected tickets, and NASA knowledgeable personnel. The new number is: 1-877-iis-4you (1-877-447-4968) or you can submit a service ticket on-line via the Web at: <http://www.odiniis.com> under "User Support".

[Back to top](#)

"Ionospheric Signatures of Earthquakes and Tectonic Activity" Seminar

The Laboratory for Extraterrestrial Physics is having a special seminar this Friday, 6 August 1999 at 1:00 P.M. in the building 2 conference room (room 8). The title is "Ionospheric Signatures of Earthquakes and Tectonic Activity" and it is being presented by Dr. Sergei A. Pulinets.

[Back to top](#)

Press Releases from the past week can be found here: [Hot Topics](#)

[Back to top](#)

Mission Success Starts With Safety

If you would like to make comments or ask questions concerning the content of the Goddard News for this week please address your email comment to: James.Sahli.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

If you would like to make comments or ask questions regarding the HTML (on-line) version of Goddard News for this week please address your email comment to: Lynn.A.Jenner.1@gsfc.nasa.gov