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Launch Set for Wide-Field Infrared Explorer To Survey Galaxies

One of NASA's smallest spacecraft, scheduled for launch Mar. 1, will tackle a very big cosmic question: what is the history of star formation in the Universe?

NASA's first new spacecraft in the Origins Program, the Wide-Field Infrared Explorer (WIRE), is scheduled for launch at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Mar. 1 from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif..

The Goddard-managed Small Explorer (SMEX) mission will help to understand how and when galaxies formed, and the subsequent history of star-formation in the Universe. Answers to these questions will shed a strong light on the very nature of the Universe we live in.

"In many ways this inaugural mission of NASA's Origins Program, which will study the birth of star-forming galaxies, will move us towards our ultimate goals," said Dr. Harley Thronson, acting director of the Astronomical Search for Origins science theme at NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. "One of the Origins Program's long-term goals is to understand the formation of not only the Universe, but the galaxies and stars we see everywhere in the cosmos. WIRE will provide us with a wealth of information which will get us closer to understanding how the Universe could reach the point of forming Sun-like stars and Earth-like planets. And, WIRE will do that at a very modest cost."

"The Small Explorer program has produced remarkable results," said **Jim Watzin**, project manager for SMEX. Watzin said the SMEX program already has four spacecraft (SAMPEX, FAST, SWAS, and TRACE) successfully operating on-orbit. "All were completed on schedule and within or below the program cost constraints," he said. "All missions differed dramatically from each other in form, function, and scope. WIRE will be the fifth and final mission developed in this manner."

For future information check out the following WIRE websites: <http://sunland.gsfc.nasa.gov/smex/wire/> & <http://www.ipac.caltech.edu/wire/>

Mission Selected To Study Solar Irradiance

By **Allen Kenitzer**, Office of Public Affairs

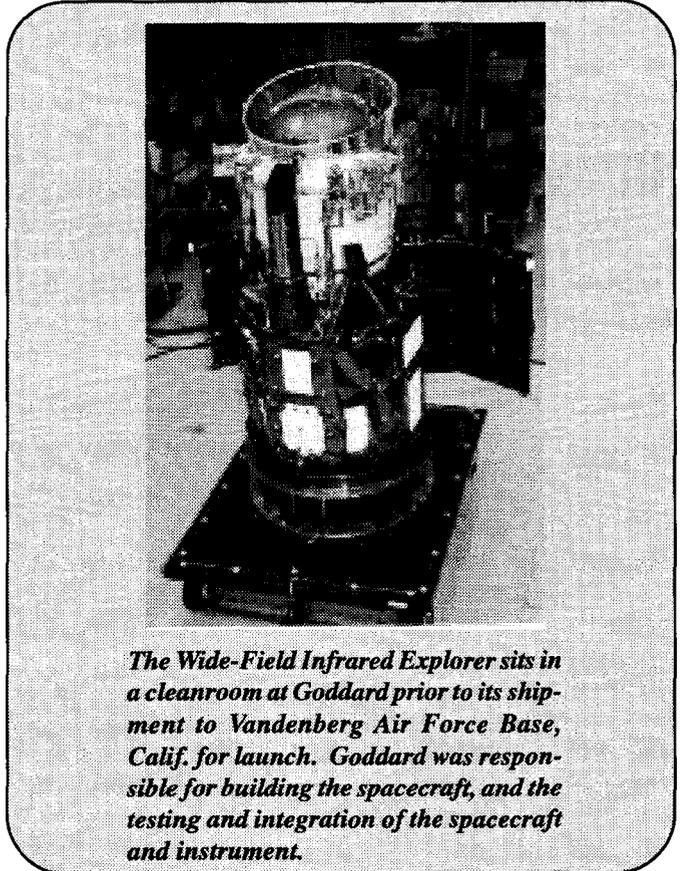
A small, low-cost mission to study the Sun's solar radiation input to the Earth's atmosphere has been selected as part of the second phase of NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS) program. The competitively selected science team will have full responsibility and authority to accomplish the mission.

The Total Solar Irradiance Mission (TSIM), led by Dr. Gary Rottman, principal investigator in the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics of the University of Colorado (Boulder), seeks to learn more about global climate change such as global warming. Total solar irradiance is a basic research objective of NASA's Global Climate Change Program.

"This exciting mission will cost-effectively fulfill a key requirement of NASA's Earth Observing System program," said Dr. Ghassem Asrar, associate administrator for the Earth Science Enterprise at NASA Headquarters. "Monitoring total solar irradiance has been a science goal for more than a century. With TSIM, we'll continue NASA's 20 year research of monitoring solar radiance and further expand our scientific knowledge of global climate."

In addition, TSIM will provide spectral measurements that will be used by the National Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellite System-'NPOESS.'

For more information, check the following web address: <ftp://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/pub/pao/releases/1999/99-021.htm>



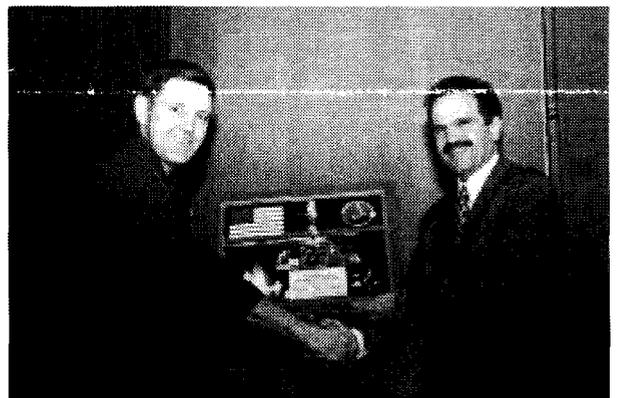
The Wide-Field Infrared Explorer sits in a cleanroom at Goddard prior to its shipment to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. for launch. Goddard was responsible for building the spacecraft, and the testing and integration of the spacecraft and instrument.

American Astronautical Society Symposium Scheduled for March 17-18

The 37th Annual Goddard Memorial American Astronautical Symposium will be held this year on March 17-18, at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel. The theme for the symposium is "Inspiration, Economics, and Exploration of Space." The registration fees have been paid by the Center for all Goddard civil servants wanting to attend the Symposium sessions. However, lunch and receptions fees are not included.

If you would like to attend the luncheons or receptions, you must complete the registration form, which is in the Symposium program, send the form along with your check or charge the fee to your credit card or go to www.astronomical.org to pre-register on line. Symposium programs are available in the Office of Public Affairs, Building 8, Room 150. All employees (civil servants) attending the AAS symposium should submit a single or group Training Request to Code 114 to the attention of Sheila Jackson.

STS-88 Crew Visit



Al Diaz, Center Director, presents STS-88 Commander Bob Cabana, a Certificate of Appreciation after crew members visited Goddard this week.

Lessons Learned Information System Provides Insight to Space Flight Users

The NASA supported Lessons Learned Information system, or LLIS, contains lessons learned pertinent to Goddard's space flight programs. It provides users with valuable information on over 600 lessons gained from the experience of your NASA colleagues. Employees can use LLIS to gain insight or solutions to their problems and identify potential risk areas. The experience gained from others is often positive, as in a successful test or mission, or it can be negative, as in a mishap or failure. Each lesson contains a specific design, process or decision that reduces or eliminates the potential for future failures and mishaps. The system also details risk mitigation approaches.

All this valuable information is available for your use at <http://llis.nasa.gov/>. Visit our web site and explore our New Lessons Listings.

If you have lessons learned that you would like to share with your fellow space flight users at Goddard, simply go to the LLIS web site and access the Lesson Submission Form. It's easy to use. You can also e-mail your comments, questions, or materials to llis@pop300.gsfc.nasa.gov

NASA's Scientific and Technical Information Program's Homepage Offers New Service

All NASA employees having access to the "nasa.gov" domain can now access to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc./Institute of Electrical Engineers Electronic Library (IEL). The IEL can be reached via the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Program's (STI) homepage at <http://www.sti.nasa.gov/STI-homepage.html>

This new service is available from the STI program through a one-year trial subscription to IEL. Following the one-year period, the STI program office, Principal Center for the STI Program, will assess the effectiveness, usage, and cost of this package to determine whether the Agency should continue its use.

The IEL package provides access to full-page images for over 4,000 publication titles, including over 120 journal titles, 600 conference proceeding titles. It also provides more than 875 technical standards from 1988 to the present, and includes monthly updates of more than 25,000 new pages, plus a newsletter.

The Information Handling Services, the authorized worldwide distributor of IEL, is providing technical support for this venture. The NASA Center for AeroSpace Information (CASI) Help Desk will provide customer support. They can be reached on 301-621-0390.

For additional information on this new service, contact Eric Vogel, NASA CASI representative, at 301-621-0189 or e-mail Vogel at: evogel@mail.casi.sti.nasa.gov

Instrument For X-Ray Mission Delivered To Japan

NASA Goddard's High Resolution X-ray Spectrometer (XRS) — the first space instrument to exploit an entirely new approach to X-ray detection — arrived in Japan this month to be installed on Astro-E, the latest in a series of Japanese observatories devoted to studying celestial X-ray sources.

The precision for measuring the energies of X-rays will be 10-times better than current X-ray satellites," said Goddard's **Dr. Richard Kelley**, XRS principal investigator.

For the entire story check the following Internet address: <ftp://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/pub/pao/releases/1999/99-022.htm>

Space Exploration at The Millennium

When: Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Where: American University, Washington, D.C.

This symposium—held in the nation's capitol at the end of the century—presents key figures of 20th century creativity and achievement. It will offer a retrospective on one of this century's crowning accomplishments the genesis of space exploration—and it will consider its future. The symposium will include panel discussions, numerous exhibits and displays, and small session meetings with some panelists.

The symposium is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. To help ensure your space, please register promptly at: <http://www.SPACE2000.org>

Featuring: Buzz Aldrin, Richard Berendzen, Avery Brooks, Yvonne Cagle, Andrew Chaikin, Franklin Chang-Diaz, Hugh Downs, Ann Druyan, Timothy Ferris, Louis Friedman, John Glenn (invited), Dan Goldin, Don Herbert, Ted Koppel, John Logsdon, Howard McCurdy, Bill Nye, Fred Ordway, Ned Potter, Kim Stanley Robinson, Donna Shirley, Edward Stone, Kathy Sullivan, and Jill Tarter.

Access To Space Group Launches Support For Goddard Customers

By the ATS Group, code 740

Looking for a ride? Confused about what can get your flight hardware where you want to go? The new Access To Space (ATS) Group has the answer to your questions. Come check us out at our website <http://accesstospace.gsfc.nasa.gov>

The goal of the ATS Group is to become an impartial "travel agency" providing access to space opportunities for our Goddard customers and partners. The customers needs may include placing anything from technology demonstration hardware to entire missions into space. You tell us where and when you want to go and we will work with you to determine what ride opportunities to space are available.

As part of the Project Formulation Office (PFO) within the STACC Directorate, the ATS Group was created to address the needs of the entire Goddard science and technology community. In contrast to the Orbital Launch Services Project's expendable launch vehicle efforts, recently transitioned to Kennedy Space Center, the ATS group is a true "travel agency" looking at all space opportunities including ELVs, RLVs, Shuttle, balloons, and new access modes under development.

The ATS group will maintain database/models of worldwide access to space performance/interface capabilities, access to space opportunities, and customer needs and desires. Work is in progress to establish partnerships with other NASA centers, DOD, and access mode suppliers to establish a complete one-stop access to space catalog of launch opportunities.

For more information about the ATS Group's services, contact **Bill Cutlip** (ATS Group Leader) on ext. 6-0438 (email: William.E.Cutlip.1@gsfc.nasa.gov) or **Tom Taylor** (PFO Chief) on ext. 6-8388 (email: Thomas.S.Taylor.1@gsfc.nasa.gov).

ISO 9001

ISO Tutorials Scheduled for Next Week

Feb. 22, Bldg. 8 Auditorium 1 - 3 p.m. ISO tutorial "Incoming Inspections". All Goddard Space Flight Center persons involved with incoming inspections are encouraged to attend this presentation.



Goddard's New Quality Policy

With customer satisfaction as our primary goal:

- GSFC is committed to meeting or exceeding our customer's requirements.

- We achieve excellence in all of our efforts.

Visit ISO at <http://arioch.gsfc.nasa.gov/iso9000/index.html>

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