

Space News Roundup

Vol. 26 No. 18

September 11, 1987

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

News Briefs

NASP engines advance

Two \$85 million contracts for subsystem fabrication and testing of the National Aero-Space Plane engine program have been awarded to the Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell International and to Pratt & Whitney, a subsidiary of United Technologies. Both companies will proceed from the conceptual design phase into systems development to demonstrate the ability of airbreathing engines to power a horizontal takeoff and landing vehicle capable of sustained hypersonic flight or single stage ascent into low Earth orbit.

HST deadline changes

The deadline for amateur astronomers to submit proposals for observing time on NASA's Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has been extended from 1987 to June 1988. To date, the HST Amateur Astronomer Working Group has received more than 450 inquiries on the participation project, which was first proposed in 1986. Officials plan to make 2 to 3 hours of observing time available annually to the amateur astronomer community. Inquiries about how to submit proposals should be sent to: American Association of Variable Star Observers, 25 Birch Street, Cambridge, Mass., 02138.

Turbine dedicated

A large wind turbine based on NASA research went on line in July and was dedicated in late August as a source of renewable energy for the Hawaiian Electric Company power grid. The MOD-5B turbine is expected to generate more than 13 million kilowatt hours of energy annually. It is located on the northern tip of the island of Oahu and has a rotor that spans 320 feet from tip to tip. The turbine weighs 319,000 lbs. and drives a power train within a closed nacelle atop a 200-ft. tower. The MOD-5B employs variable speed technology and is the third generation large wind turbine to come out of the 12-year-old federal program.

Launch pact signed

The United States and Australia have signed a 10-year agreement which will allow NASA to launch scientific sounding rockets from Woomera, Australia. Diplomatic notes exchanged by the U.S. and Australian governments designate NASA and the Australian Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce as the principal agencies under the agreement. NASA's first campaign under the plan will be six or seven launches in November and December to study Supernova 1987a, which cannot be observed from the northern hemisphere. Launch vehicles for the campaign will include Black Brant IX's and Nike-Black Brant V's.

Support contracted

NASA has selected McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Co., Houston, for negotiations leading to award of an applications and analysis support contract (AASC) to be performed at JSC and adjacent facilities. Subcontractors supporting the McDonnell Douglas team include Computer Sciences Corp., LINCOM Corp. and W de Y Associates, Inc., all of Houston. AASC is a new contract representing a consolidation of efforts currently performed under five existing support contracts covering a wide range of computer software development and performance analysis for JSC's Mission Support Directorate. Proposed cost of the five-year program is about \$80 million with options for \$42 million in possible increases. The work includes systems integration, data base management and operational design for planning missions of the Space Transportation System, Space Station, future space flight programs and ground-based institutional activities.

Redesigned SRM passes first major test



Development Motor 8 roared to life Aug. 30 in the first full-scale, full-duration firing of the new solid rocket motor design. The next firing is scheduled for November.

Preliminary analysis indicates the redesigned Shuttle solid rocket motor has passed its first major test.

Initial results from the Aug. 30 firing of development motor number eight (DM-8) at Morton Thiokol's Wasatch Operations facility in Utah indicated that the first full-scale, full duration firing of the redesigned motor was a success.

At Roundup press time, Morton Thiokol workers had removed one segment from the tested rocket and found the joint seals to be acceptable. A second segment also was scheduled to be removed during the week of Sept. 7.

The test had been delayed three days after a series of problems in ground support equipment forced cancellation of the scheduled firing Aug. 27. The Morton Thiokol team experienced problems in the water cooling system and in computer sequencing for the motor's thrust vector control system.

Both problems were addressed over the weekend, although a kink in a water hose near the base of the motor kept the cooling system from working properly and a one-foot crack formed in the motor casing during the test. The water cooling system is necessary because in a horizontal firing, superheated remnants of the solid rocket fuel—known as slag—build up and can heat the case to temperatures not seen under normal conditions.

The water cooling system is being redesigned to use rigid hoses instead of fire hoses, Morton Thiokol officials said.

DM-8 is to be followed in coming months by three other major tests. DM-9 is scheduled for November, while Qualification Motor Six (QM-6) and QM-7 are to be tested in February and April, respectively.

STS-26 main engine tests begin at NSTL

Acceptance testing has begun on the first of three Space Shuttle main engines earmarked for use on the June 1988 launch of the next Shuttle mission, STS-26.

A 1.5-second test was successfully conducted in August on the first engine, number 2027, and the other tests on that engine are scheduled to be completed this month.

Following completion of testing on engine 2027, testing will begin on the second engine, number 2022, followed by the third engine, number 2019. Acceptance testing on all the flight engines is expected to be complete in December.

The tests are being done at the National Space Technology Laboratories in Mississippi by the

Rocketdyne Division of Rockwell International. NASA's prime contractor for the Shuttle engines.

The engines incorporate several improvements made as a result of an extensive and continuing test program. These changes include improvements to the electronic controller, valve actuators, temperature sensors, main combustion

chamber and various modifications to the turbopumps to improve life and operating margin.

During acceptance testing, three hot-fire tests, totaling about 770 seconds, will be run on each of the STS-26 flight engines. The tests include a 1.5-second ignition test, 250-second calibration test and a 520-second nominal mission simulation test.

JSC workers win 5 Employee of Year awards

JSC employees earned five of eight 1987 Federal Employee of the Year awards presented Sept. 9 at the 11th annual Federal Executive Board/Houston Area Federal Business Association Luncheon.

The awards are recognized as one of the more important and coveted forms of nonmonetary recognition available to United States government employees in the Houston-Galveston metropolitan area. The JSC winners and their eight categories are:

Administrative—Lupita M. Armendariz, Hispanic Employment Program Manager.

Professional/Scientific—Howard L. Renfro, manager, NSTS Program Budget Office.

Clerical/Service—Linda R. Shirley, secretary, Space Station Projects Office.

Craft—Quinan W. Swing, Electronics and Computer Systems Branch.

Length of Service—Pete D. Strahl, Printing Management Branch.

"I think it's a tremendous thing for our employees to have won five of those awards," said William Kelly, JSC Director of Administration and FEB vice president.

All nominees were required to be career or career-conditional federal employees and have a permanent duty location within the Houston-Galveston area.

The nominations were judged on the basis of job competence, including initiative, innovation, efficiency, accuracy, cooperation, dedication and other work-excellence qualities; impact, on the nominee's immediate office's activities, the agency's mission, the operations of other government agencies or the community; community service, including public service activities that were not job related; special efforts, including the nominee's personal efforts to improve his or her knowledge, skills and abilities, and recency of accomplishment, with emphasis on performance and accomplishments within the past year.



JSC recipients of the Federal Employee of the Year Award are, left to right, Howard L. Renfro, Linda R. Shirley, Quinan W. Swing, Lupita M. Armendariz and Pete D. Strahl.

Bulletin Board

Health Related Fitness refresher offered

The JSC Health Related Fitness Program has designed a 10-week reinforcement course (HRFP II) to revitalize program graduates whose activity levels have fallen after graduation and to refresh those who have remained active. The new course will begin Sept. 29. The exercise prescription will encourage a gradual progression in aerobic training from 30 minutes four days a week to 45 minutes five or six days a week. For more information, contact Larry Wier, x30301.

SARSAT van to visit Sept. 23 and 24

The SARSAT van, a traveling exhibit that details the satellite-aided search and rescue project (COSPAS/SARSAT), will be on display at JSC's Rocket Park Sept. 23 and 24. COSPAS/SARSAT is an international cooperative program between the United States, Canada, France and the Soviet Union. The U.S. program includes NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Coast Guard and the Air Force. The large walk-through trailer features six exhibits.

Houston Gulf Flight Festival nears

Preparations are under way for Houston Gulf Flight Festival '87, which will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 19 and 20 at the Houston Gulf Airport, 2750 FM 1266 in League City. There will be airplanes to explore, fly-bys by the National Guard, a mock recovery by the Coast Guard, parachuting events and other activities. Local businesses will provide displays, and refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Susan Spencer, Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, 488-7676.

Planning starts for NACA Reunion IV

Preliminary announcements are in the mail for NACA Reunion IV, Sept. 30 through Oct. 2, 1988, in San Jose, Calif. All former NACA employees, their spouses and military personnel who were detailed to NACA are urged to attend. Any eligible person who hasn't received the preliminary announcement is urged to contact Harvey Hartman in the Personnel Office, x35266, or write the organizing committee at Box 6-1988, Mountain View, Calif., 94042.

Children's Theater presents Mymba Baboons

The JSC-EAA Children's Theater will present The Mymba Baboons circus act at 10 a.m. Sept. 19 at the Gilruth Recreation Center. Refreshments will be served at 10 a.m., followed by Clown Capers at 10:15 and The Mymba Baboons at 10:45. Tickets are \$2, and may be purchased at the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store (x35350) through Sept. 16. For more information, call Susan Starkweather, x36608.

Next BAPCO meeting is Sept. 15

The next meeting of the Bay Area PC Organization (BAPCO), the local IBM PC user's group, will be at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Holiday Inn on NASA Road 1. The group is open to anyone interested in micro-computers. BAPCO meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information call Earl Rubenstein, x33124, or Jack Calvin, 326-2983.

Commodore computer users to meet

NASACOMM, a Commodore user's group, holds meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 204 of the Gilruth Recreation Center. Anyone interested in Commodore computers is invited to attend. For more information, call Bill Moore at 335-6251 or 485-3462.

Hispanic heritage program planned

The JSC Hispanic Advisory Committee will present the annual Hispanic Heritage Day program at 1:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in the Bldg. 2 Teague Auditorium. The theme is "Education: The Solution." Speakers will include Dr. Guadalupe C. Quintanilla, Dr. Luis Cano, Gloria Delgado, Roman Martinez, Dr. Dorothy F. Caram and Dr. Nina Kay. Entertainment will be provided by Fiestas Patrias. For more information, call John Rosales, x34840.

Computer Languages Users to meet

The JSC Computer Languages Users Group (formerly the Pascal/C/Modula-2 Users Group) will hold its next meeting from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 28 in Bldg. 30, Rm. 3014. All interested employees and contractors are invited to attend. For more information, call Keith Brown, x38952, Joe Giararantano, x38075 or John Box, x33349.

Lunar bases abstracts call goes out

A second symposium on Lunar Bases and Space Activities of the 21st Century will be sponsored by NASA, AIAA, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Geophysical Union, and the Lunar and Planetary Institute at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston April 5-7, 1988. Authors are invited to send an Abstract Submittal Form distributed with JSC Announcement 87-132. Forms should be submitted to Stephanie Tindell, LPI, 3303 NASA Road 1, Houston, TX, 77058, before Sept. 14. For more information, contact Barney Roberts, x36605 or Wendell Mendell, x35064.

Gilruth Center News

Call x30304 for more information

Defensive driving — Learn to drive safely and qualify for a 10% reduction in your auto insurance rates. This all-day Saturday class meets Oct. 17.

Weight safety — This is a required course for those employees wishing to use the Rec Center weight room. The class will be held Sept. 17 and Oct. 7.

Fall Classic Softball Tournament — The Men's C open softball championships will be held Sept. 19 and 20. The entry deadline is Sept. 16, and the team fee is \$95.

Guitar, banjo and drum lessons — Beginning classes in guitar, banjo and drums begin Sept. 14 and will be held every Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. for six weeks. The cost is \$25.

Fall Intercenter Run — The 10-kilometer and/or 2-mile races for the annual fall intercenter run will be held throughout October. Runners may submit their times during the month, and the Rec Center will provide timers and refreshments at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 19 through 22.

Sign-up policy — The Rec Center reminds employees that all classes and athletic activities are held on a first-come, first-serve basis. Full payment for activities is required when enrolling, and no enrollments are taken over the telephone. Classes tend to fill up 4 weeks in advance.

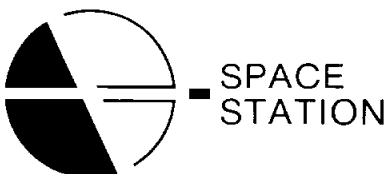


Red, white and blue symbolize America's presence in the continuing conquest of space. The bold double S, (the blue "S" and the "S" to its left) stands for Space Station. The red speed lines symbolize our movement into space via the Space Station. The circles and star represent both America and its three international partners, and our movement through the planets to a permanent place among the stars.

Rich Doty

The theme of the logo is a bold contemporary statement of America's presence in space. The symbolism of the logo is a representation of the earth, space and the space station with the red and blue symbolizing the American presence. Within the sphere, the lower blue portion represents the earth and its horizon. The red above the earth represents the new horizon brought by the space program. The sphere's blue top represents the heavens.

Rich Doty



The circle to represent the earth. Half in light, half in darkness. The rectangle to represent Space Station. Its rectangular man-made shape contrasting the circle, a natural shape. The horizontal line superimposed on the circle representing the orbital path of the Space Station.

Rod Jones

Space Station functions as a "stepping stone" to other programs and future space exploration. The full sphere with the open line passing through it represents our home base, Earth, and the orbital path of the Station. The ellipsed sphere represents the moon and other planets that will be explored using Space Station as a point of departure. Finally, the uninterrupted line passing through the letters represents the limitless possibilities that Space Station provides for exploring our universe and expanding our boundaries. Space Station is symbolized as a bright reflections of light off the truss structure.

Frances Walls Tewhill



JSC picks Space Station logo entries

Four Space Station logo designs created by JSC employees have been forwarded to Headquarters for consideration as the program's new identifying graphic.

The winning designs, submitted by Rod Jones, Rich Doty and Frances Walls Tewhill, were selected from more than 100 entries by a committee comprised of Public Affairs, Graphics and JSC

management.

The Space Station Management Council will evaluate the JSC entries and entries from NASA's other centers and Headquarters offices. The results of the evaluation are expected in a few months.

Stan Jacobsen, JSC Graphics Coordinator and a member of the evaluation committee, said the four winning designs were selected for

their simplicity.

"Almost all the words were great, but graphically they didn't portray it," Jacobsen said of the entries that were not selected.

A letter from Daniel A. Nebrig, Executive Assistant to the JSC Director, expressed to all entrants the center's appreciation for the time and effort they expended.

Blue banana scoops win at freeze-off

Blue-colored, banana-flavored ice cream scooped its 11 competitors for top honors at the recent Propulsion and Power Division "Ice Cream Freeze-Off." Propulsion Branchers **Rex Delventhal, John Masetta** and **Eric Hurlbert** edged out **Cecil Gibson** of the Power Branch to win. About 125 people attended the freeze-off at Galveston County Park on Sept. 2, said **Cyndi Draughon**, one of the organizers. Judges especially admired the originality of the winner, she said.

Secretarial excellence

P. Joe Ann Ross of the Life Sciences Project Divisions (LSPD) Division Office has been awarded the Marilyn J. Bockting Secretarial Excellence Award. Ross, who reports to Donald G. Wiseman, deputy division chief, received a plaque and \$500. She was specifically congratulated for accepting responsibility to support the Division Office while the division secretary is assigned to source board activities, upgrading the division's file system, maintaining communication among division and directorate secretaries, and utilizing several data communication networks for the benefit of the division.



P. Joe Ann Ross



Clarke Covington, Henry Pohl and Joseph Mechelay mark their judging sheets, using ice-cream cone pens, at the Propulsion and Power Division Ice Cream Freeze-off.

People

ation donation is eligible for matching funds from the National Science Foundation.

Paperback flight history

A history of aviation written by University of Houston professor **Roger E. Bilstein** has been released in paperback. "Flight in America: From the Wrights to the Astronauts" is being published by Johns Hopkins University Press. The book traces the transformation of American life caused by aviation, and illustrates the flight history with 120 photographs of the machines and the people who invented, built and flew them.

Hall of Famer

STS Integration and Operations engineer **Richard "Robbie" Robbins** has been made one of four charter members of the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools (NATTS) Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. Robbins is a 31-year veteran of Rockwell International, and has worked in Houston since 1977.

Space Foundation awards

The Space Foundation has awarded its 1987 Space Industrialization Fellowship to **Todd B. Hawley**, and presented **Dr. Donald E. Winget** with a \$5,000 research grant. Hawley received a \$2,500 stipend to support his research into potential space power consumption and a commercial space power industry at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Winget, a University of Texas at Austin astronomer, received \$5,000 to support his studies of white dwarf stars. Because Winget is a Presidential Young Investigator, the Space Foun-

'People' review

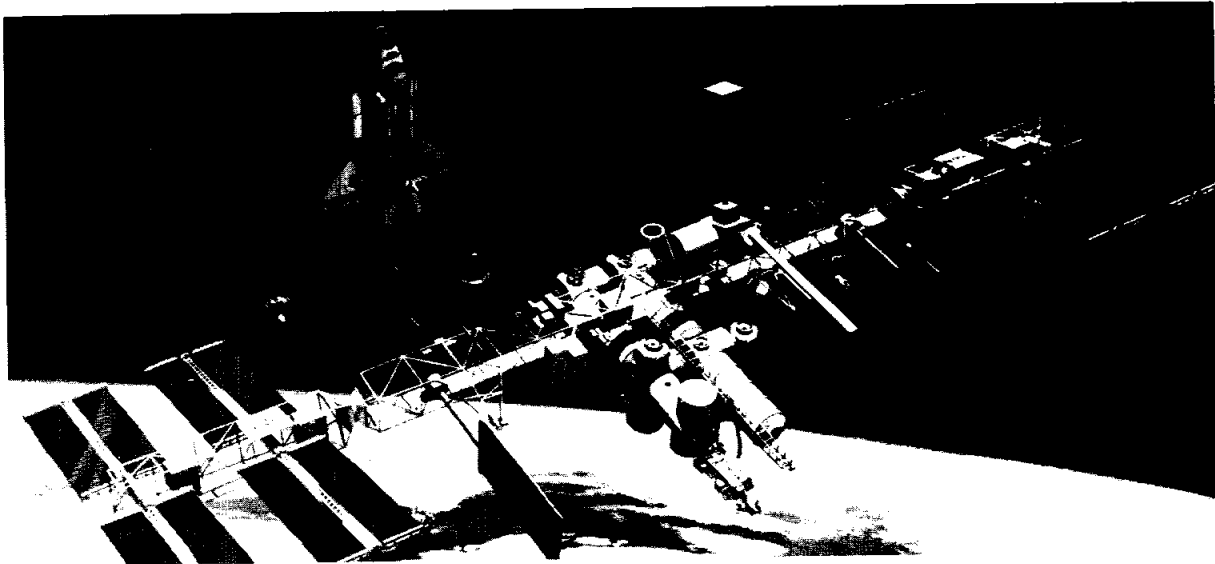
A review in the Aug. 31 "People" magazine praises a newly released videotape created, produced and directed by **Craig Jackson**, an audio engineer for Media Services Corp., in the Public Affairs Office. "Journey into Space," a 28-minute combination of clips from NASA footage of the first 24 Space Shuttle missions

Forum

Senate action stirs debate

A vote central to the future of the space program could take place this month in the United States Senate. Sometime in September, the Senate will take up the business of the Fiscal Year 1988 budget. One budget markup now before the Senate was supplied in August by the Senate Appropriations Committee, which ordered large cuts in funds from the HUD and Indepen-

dent Agencies appropriations. If sustained, the suggested cuts could amount to almost \$1 billion in budget authority for NASA in the coming fiscal year. Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin has pledged to "kill the station project as it is currently configured." As a service to its readers, the Roundup is reprinting in full the following three viewpoints on this issue.



Proxmire: Space program suffers from 'edifice complex'

(The following position paper by Sen. William Proxmire is reprinted verbatim.):

Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) in a statement from his Washington office, warned that "our moribund civilian space program is the victim of a Federal 'edifice complex.' We seem to be repeating the mistakes of the past in moving forward with a multi-billion dollar unproven Space Station initiative that saps the remainder of the domestic space effort, and I intend to do my best to kill the Station project as it is currently configured."

The Wisconsin senator, who chairs the Appropriations subcommittee funding National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) programs, went on to say: "NASA has fallen prey increasingly over the years to an institutional imperative that requires it to consider the needs of its eight space centers first and national goals second. This led to NASA's decision to pursue a totally unrealistic Shuttle program on the basis of a jiggered benefit-cost study that caused the agency to do away with its fleet of expendable launchers

and rely solely on the Shuttle to get us into space.

"Although it is hard to believe, an early Shuttle mission model called for 581 flights over 12 years—an average of about 48 flights per year or more than three times the current estimate of 14 yearly flights. Without this kind of wild overestimating it would have been impossible to justify the Shuttle and we would not have done away with expendable launchers on cost-benefit grounds.

"We all know what the cost of this misguided policy has been. When the tragic *Challenger* disaster occurred it put our civilian space program in the deep freeze for at least two and one half years because we had bet the bank on the Shuttle card and had no back-up systems.

"Furthermore, many science missions were postponed because of: (1) the need to make them Shuttle compatible, (2) delays in launching the Shuttle and, (3) the *Challenger* accident. This has created a devastating hiatus in space science activities and may cost us an entire generation of dedicated space researchers, as scientists recognize that the grass is greener in other

research pastures.

"To take just one example, the Galileo Jupiter mission was supposed to be launched in 1982. Because of Shuttle delays, weight constraints and other problems the launch was delayed until 1986. Now, because of the Shuttle stand-down the launch date has slipped to October of 1989. Even this launch date is uncertain and the mission may have to be reconfigured so that it can be launched on an expendable booster.

"Now we have the Space Station, a project in search of a mission. Try as it might, NASA has been unable to sell the merits of this program to the bulk of the scientific community, and the defense establishment looks on it with great skepticism, just as they did the Shuttle. Industry has shown a marked reluctance to endorse the Station concept. In fact, the only true Space Station groupies outside the NASA bureaucracy are the aerospace firms, who obviously stand to make a great deal of money on Space Station contracts.

"Just as with the Shuttle, we are seeing overoptimistic claims for

the benefits the Station will confer. And just as with the Shuttle, space science is being dragged in by the scruff of the neck and being forced to become Station compatible, which will ultimately cost much time and money.

"Finally, just as with the Shuttle, the station will tie up an immense amount of resources, creating a massive superstructure that will require a disproportionate amount of NASA's budget and personnel to operate.

"The bugaboo of the Soviet manned space program is being used to justify the Space Station. But just as the Shuttle development ceded the skies to Soviet astronauts from the late seventies through the early eighties, a permanently manned station that will not be in place until the mid-nineties at the earliest will give the Russians plenty of time to pad their lead in manned space flight.

"What's the answer? How could NASA better spend their space dollars? Well, a substantial amount of the \$20 billion or so it will cost to deploy the first phase of the station could be used to develop a new

generation of expendable launchers that would give us improved access to space. A portion could be spent to proceed toward the ultimate goal of a fully manned Station through an extension of Shuttle Orbiter mission time and the deployment of a simple man-tended station that could give us a great deal of experience in microgravity at much less cost. Funds could also be used to enhance a badly damaged space science program. And last, but not least, a dividend could be declared in the form of a reduction in the Federal deficit through a cut in total NASA expenditures.

"Of course, this is unacceptable to the aerospace industry and the far-flung NASA bureaucracy, both of which need massive projects to feed their voracious appetites. But the cost of keeping these players supplied with the dollars necessary to maintain their standard of living is an enhanced budget deficit, an increasingly inflexible space program, and the inability to compete imaginatively and aggressively with the many nations around the world that are not tied to vast and unwieldy space superstructures."

Former astronauts: Cuts imperil U.S. leadership

(The following "Open Letter to the Nation" was sent by six former astronauts to editors, publishers and other opinion leaders throughout the country. The six are Alan Shepard, Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, Eugene Cernan, Walter Cunningham, Alan Bean and Joseph P. Allen.)

Congress is about to determine the fate of America in space. Today there are members of the Senate Appropriations Committee who seem willing to turn our nation into a second-rate player in manned space exploration. As former astronauts, we are deeply concerned about the Committee's efforts to further reduce an already lean NASA budget. However well intentioned, their actions could eliminate America's chances to retain its leadership in space.

We cannot abide by this. America must lead in space exploration. This isn't said with some misplaced sense of hubris. It is based on personal involvement for the past

25 years. Our nation is recognized as the world leader in technology. In the eyes of most of the world, this position was earned by our successful efforts to explore the vast reaches of space.

Some elected officials view space exploration as an expenditure. It isn't. It's an opportunity for investment in our future. Although no one can predict the actual return on that investment, we know it will be significant. We also know the price of being a world leader includes a willingness to live and work at the cutting edge of technology; to create new scientific, economic and personal opportunities for growth. For this generation, that cutting edge is in space.

America is at a crossroads. The consequence of reducing funding for NASA at this time leaves the Agency with two unacceptable alternatives. The Space Station Program could be cut back and, thereby, possibly never be built.

Or, NASA could reduce other crucial projects, such as unmanned scientific missions, development of a new heavy lift rocket and a fourth orbiter. America—the richest nation on Earth—cannot afford either option.

It is also foolish and dangerous to think that simply delaying funding for NASA programs will be economical. The costs escalate daily for all capital construction whether it's commercial real estate, public works or space stations. Further delays in the Space Station Program, after the expenditure of about \$700 million, will inevitably result in a higher total cost. If not now, when can we afford it?

Even more important than a growing price tag, delays will cost us talented scientists and engineers. The design teams which aerospace contractors have assembled cannot be held together without the projects which employ them. Perhaps the greatest tragedy would be that those

same American scientists and engineers could end up exploiting manned space exploration for other nations.

An American space station is both essential and inevitable. And now is the time to embrace a long-term space strategy that includes the station. To lead in development of the next generation of space-related technology, Congress must move decisively to fund the programs which will keep America in the driver's seat of manned space operations.

If an American Space Station is not built, and built soon, we will have voluntarily stepped down as the leader in the vital area of manned space operations. Ironically, we could become net purchasers of technology from countries which have made the commitment to space, such as Japan or the Soviet Union. How tragic it would be for this nation, the world leader in science and technology, to lose its ability to conduct research and

commercial activities in space because it was unwilling to appropriate the necessary funds.

Congress will debate the fate of America's role in space beginning in September. Some members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, including Senator Proxmire, seek to further cut the NASA budget. Their action is a direct threat to the Space Station.

The budget decisions which will be made in the coming months will determine the course of this nation in space for many years to come; whether we'll be there as a leader, even whether we'll be there at all.

It is up to all Americans to speak out on this important issue. That's why we are telling our elected representatives and the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee that we want the Space Station...for America's sake. The time to act is now. Delaying will only allow others to make this decision for us.

Fletcher: U.S. would abdicate leadership role without Station

(NASA Administrator Dr. James C. Fletcher released the following statement in response to the Proxmire position paper.)

Senator Proxmire's opposition to the Space Station is not unexpected. He has consistently opposed most of the major advances the United States has made in space.

The President's 1984 proposal to develop a Space Station has been repeatedly debated and has received bi-partisan support in Congress.

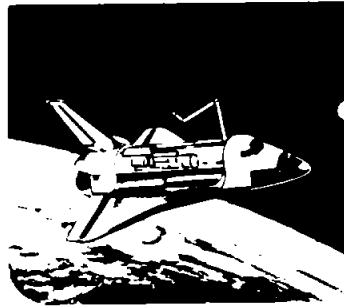
The space station program can and does stand on its merits as the necessary next step in the United States space program. The Station will provide laboratories for significant scientific experiments, build

experience in prolonged manned presence in space and provide infrastructure for future exploration of the solar system by manned spacecraft.

Without the Space Station, the United States would, in effect, abdicate to its adversaries and allies alike its role as a world leader in space.

NASA
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center

Space News Roundup



The Roundup is an official publication of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, and is published every other Friday by the Public Affairs Office for all space center employees. Roundup deadline is the first Wednesday after publication.

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