



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

# GODDARD

Greenbelt, Maryland/Wallops Island, Virginia

April 30, 1999 Vol. 3

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

## Goddard at 40: Proud Of The Past, Prepared For The Future

When Goddard opened for business 40 years ago, it attracted a diverse group of scientists from government laboratories and universities. These scientists were housed initially in abandoned warehouses located at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Over the next 40 years, the science effort grew steadily and evolved. Today Goddard is a leading center of space research in terms of scientific success and leadership in planning and carrying out new missions.

Dr. Frank B. McDonald, senior research scientist at the University of Maryland College Park campus and former GSFC scientist, will be the guest speaker for the Center's May 7 scientific colloquium, "40 Years of Science At Goddard." McDonald will discuss the first decade of Goddard's development and how it became a gateway to the scientific missions and programs that followed over the next 30 years. The colloquium, which begins at 3:30 p.m. in the Building 3 Auditorium, is open to all Goddard employees.

A quick look at some of other activities planned for Goddard's 40th Anniversary celebration include --

**Monday, May 3:** 40th Anniversary Symposium morning session from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 8 Auditorium features NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and members of the Maryland delegation; afternoon session in Building 8 Auditorium from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. features Dr. Ghassem Asrar and Dr. Ed Weiler, and Dr.'s. John Mather and Jim Hansen; special engineering colloquium presentation in Building 3 Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. (with a book signing from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.) featuring Lane Wallace, author of "Dreams, Hopes, Realities -- NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, The First Forty Years"; and a National Space Club Reception at the Goddard Visitor Center from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 5:** Picnic and Post Office commemorative stamp cancellation on the Mall area in front of Building 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. featuring a pre-lunch kick off parade, 40 foot cake and music.

**Thursday, May 6:** GSFC Library Open House in Building 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Friday, May 7:** Scientific colloquium in Building 3 Auditorium from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. featuring University of Maryland scientist and former GSFC chief scientist Dr. Frank McDonald; and a Recreation Center party from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**For a detailed look at the schedule of events for Goddard's 40th Anniversary celebration, visit our 40th web site on the Internet at: <http://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsf/40th/40th.htm>**

### Aerospace Firm Wins NASA's Highest Honor for Quality

Raytheon Support Services Company of Annapolis Junction, Md., and three other firms, were this year's winners of the George M. Low Award. Raytheon won in the large business service category.

Raytheon provides logistics support, warehousing and distribution of equipment and material at Goddard. The company achieved a two percent cost savings in their contract during the past three years.

NASA selects firms for the Agency's highest honor based on their commitment to innovative management, quality and customer service. Other recipients included Barrios Technology, Inc., Houston, Texas, who received the award for small business product; Thiokol Space Operations, Brigham City, Utah, who took the award for large business product; and Kay and Associates, Edwards, Calif., picked up the award for small business service.



*Dr. James VanAllen and Dr. Frank McDonald are pictured above standing next to an early version of a cosmic ray detector being readied for flight. The photo was taken March 13, 1956 in Iowa City.*



*Dr. McDonald will present an intriguing look at four decades of conducting science at Goddard at the Center's May 7 scientific colloquium.*

### Goddard Team Wins Award

The U.S. Robotics competition was held last week at the Kennedy Space Center and a Goddard-sponsored robot from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt won an award.

Four of the robots used in the competition will be on display in the Building 5 truck lot during Goddard Community Day.

For more information, check out the web site at [http://web547.gsfc.nasa.gov/News\\_\\_Events/news\\_\\_events.html](http://web547.gsfc.nasa.gov/News__Events/news__events.html)

Visit Goddard News on the web at <http://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsf/gnews/gnews.htm>

## NASA Selects Firm For NASA Supplier Assurance Contract

NASA has selected Dynacs Engineering Co., Inc. of Palm Harbour, Fla. for award of a contract under the NASA Supplier Assurance Contract for test and inspection, ISO 9000 compliance audits, mandatory source inspections, milestone reviews, assessing suppliers quality assurance systems, evaluating system safety and other related services.

The contract will provide NASA-wide safety and mission assurance oversight and insight services for its estimated 2,700 prime and sub-tier contractors throughout the continental United States. Goddard will manage the multi-year contract, which has a period of performance of two base years and three, one-year options.

## Goddard to Sponsor Annual Small and Small Disadvantaged Business Conference

Goddard's twenty-sixth annual Small and Small Disadvantaged Business Conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 27. Conference activities begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Building 8 Auditorium with opening remarks by Goddard's Associate Director for Acquisition Mike Ladomirak.

Key end users from Goddard's technical and scientific organizations will be available to inform small businesses of the Center's contracting opportunities. Representatives from the Small Business Administration, Goddard's prime contractors and other government agencies will be available to discuss additional opportunities.

A Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Technology Exhibit will be set up in the Building 28 Atrium that day from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small business representatives will be on hand to showcase technical innovations developed with NASA's SBIR program funds. Goddard's third annual Small Business Science Forum will be held later that day from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Building 3 Auditorium.

More information about the Conference is available on the Internet at: <http://Genesis.gsfc.nasa.gov/sbconf/GSFC99.html>

## Another Goddard First

The Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission, launched Nov. 27, 1997 from Tanegashima, Japan, was a cooperative agreement between NASA and Japan. NASA commissioned the satellite to a three-year mission to observe and understand tropical rainfall, which accounts for more than two-thirds of all rainfall on Earth.

The TRMM project is managed by Goddard and provided the first comprehensive precipitation data on a global scale. It also is the largest spacecraft ever built in-house at the Center.

## Goddard Education Showcase Scheduled For May

The Center's educational office is sponsoring an Education Showcase for science, math, geography and technology teachers on May 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

The purpose of the Showcase is to provide teachers an opportunity to gain updates within content areas related to Earth and space science and technology and to provide sessions on classroom applications of NASA-developed educational materials. The content-related instructional materials will be offered at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

For more information on session locations or agenda, please contact Cheryl Brown-Campbell at 301-286-7478.

## ISO 9001

### Goddard's 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.htm>

**Remember!**  
**Mission Success Starts With Safety**

## NASA Awards Launch Contract for Vegetation Canopy Lidar Satellite

NASA has selected Lockheed Martin Astronautics of Denver, Colo., for a contract to launch the Vegetation Canopy Lidar (VCL) satellite on an Athena I rocket. The satellite will be the first to launch from Alaska in August 2000.

The VCL satellite will precisely measure Earth's vegetation coverage, vegetation depth (or canopy) and topography by using short laser pulses from a LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) system.

The mission is being implemented for Goddard by the University of Maryland, College Park, in support of the Earth System Science Pathfinder Program.

Goddard's Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics is building the VCL's single-science instrument, a Multi-Beam Laser Altimeter, and Orbital Sciences Corporation of Dulles, Va. is building the spacecraft bus.

## Testing Components and Satellite Systems Saves Time and Money

The Environmental Test Engineering and Integration Branch, Code 549, is one of Goddard's best kept secrets.

"We want everyone at Goddard to know that we perform environmental tests on components and full satellite systems which are intended to study Earth and space science," Mark Branch said. "Proper testing ensures these components and systems are not radiators of Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)." Branch works in the Environmental Test Engineering and Integration Branch at Goddard.

"In essence, what we do is called electromagnetic compatibility testing," reported Branch. Electromagnetic compatibility is the ability of equipment or systems to operate efficiently in their intended environment in space without degradation due to unintentional EMI. Finding and solving electromagnetic compatibility design problems early on can save a project valuable time and money.

Branch says any Goddard employee who is considering designing and building Earth and space science systems should consider testing these systems for electromagnetic compatibility. Code 549 personnel can help engineers sniff out EMI "hotspots" in their hardware early in the design and manufacture phase of a project's life cycle (i.e., engineering models). Formal EMC testing can be performed in either of their two labs on Center, or Code 549 personnel can travel to the project's fabrication facility to troubleshoot for EMI before they perform formal environmental testing.

## Looking For Additional Copies of Goddard's History Book?

Since initial production, the Superintendent of Documents will be producing additional copies of Dreams, Hopes, Realities: NASA Goddard's First Forty Years. You can obtain copies by contacting the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at 202-512-1800, or by fax at 202-512-2250, or you can order online at: [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs)

The cost of each book is \$33.00 for paperback and \$41.00 for hardback. GPO will accept payment by VISA, MasterCard or Discover.

## GODDARDNEWS staff

Executive Editor: James Sahl  
Managing Editor: Susan Hendrix  
Contributing Editor: Nancy Neal  
Senior Photographer: Mark DeBord  
Submission deadline: Friday each week (submissions subject to editing)  
For additional information contact:  
Susan Hendrix 301•286•7745

Subscription Information:  
GSFC & WFF Mailing List  
Offsite/Commercial Subscriptions  
Retiree Subscriptions

Contact:  
Gweny Durrah, Code 239  
Jim Sahl, Code 130  
Bob Wilson 301•422•8334