

May 3, 2007

Media Advisory

Media Invited to Briefing on James Webb Space Telescope on May 10: Full-Scale Model on Display at the National Mall

What: Media are invited to a briefing about the James Webb Space Telescope on the National Mall, next to a full-scale model of the Webb Telescope. With its hexagonal-shaped mirror and five-layer sunshield, media will learn about JWST and have a rare opportunity to see up-close what NASA's next-generation space telescope will look like on orbit. This is a visual opportunity and B-roll is available.

Experts will talk about the Webb Telescope's mission in deep space, how it fits into NASA's space exploration program, and progress that has been made to-date in its construction. These include: Edward Weiler, director, Goddard Space Flight Center; Matt Mountain, director, Space Telescope Science Institute; Martin Mohan, JWST program manager, Northrop Grumman.

The model is on display in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week, sponsored by the Council for Excellence in Government.

When: Thursday, May 10, 2007, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Where: National Mall, between the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the National Gallery.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Gus Gulmert, 703.875.8450, gus.gulmert@ngc.com or Sally Koris, 310.812.4721, sally.koris@ngc.com

The JWST will peer back nearly 13 billion years in time to understand the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets to the evolution of our own solar system. A team led by Northrop Grumman, including Ball Aerospace, ITT and ATK, is using cutting-edge design and manufacturing technology to build the first deployable space telescope. JWST will add to observations gathered by earlier space telescopes, while unlocking future discoveries. The model's sheer size shows the complexity of the mission and how the observatory will enable the Webb Telescope's unique mission.

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