

Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

James Webb Space Telescope

Goal Leader: Greg Robinson, Program Director

Deputy Goal Leader: Jeanne Davis, Program Manager



Overview



Goal Statement

Revolutionize humankind's understanding of the cosmos and humanity's place in it. The James Webb Space Telescope will study every phase in the history of our universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of other stellar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own solar system. By September 30, 2021, NASA will launch the James Webb Space Telescope, complete onorbit checkout, and initiate observatory commissioning.

Challenge

 Complete integration and test of largest cryogenic telescope ever to be launched.

Opportunity

- The Webb program will produce an astronomical observatory capable of watching the universe light up after the Big Bang. It will revolutionize humankind's understanding of the Cosmos and our place in it.
- This observatory is key for meeting NASA's strategic goal to expand human knowledge through new scientific discoveries.
- Webb is NASA's new telescope that will allow us to explore deeper into space and see things that even the Hubble Space Telescope cannot see.

Leadership & Implementation Team



Science Mission Directorate

Associate Administrator: Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen Deputy Associate Administrator: Dennis Andrucyk

James Webb Space Telescope

Goal Leader: Greg Robinson, James Webb Space Telescope Program Director Deputy Goal Leader: TBD, James Webb Space Telescope Program Manager

Goddard Space Flight Center

Project Manager: Bill Ochs

Goal Structure & Strategies



In continuing to work with its partners toward completion of Spacecraft Element (SCE) environmental testing, OTIS* integration to the SCE, and observatory-level environmental testing, NASA will:

- Conduct high-level (corporate Vice President and above) quarterly meetings of all mission partners to ensure accurate, consistent knowledge of program status and challenges.
- Conduct quarterly discussions between the NASA Administrator and the Northrop Grumman Chief Executive Officer.
- Provide quarterly updates to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
- Employ Estimate-at-Complete analyses that incorporate the current risk posture, independent analysis of those data, and detailed tracking of lower-level milestones that lead up to the APG, as well as schedule health assessments. (The project receives monthly earned value management and schedule health reports that detail how the work is progressing with respect to the plan and budget.)
- Continue practice of Standing Review Board (SRB) member participation in key reviews. Key SRB members will also participate in other reviews, such as the recent schedule assessment review. The SRB subject matter experts provide independent impartial assessments of the project's readiness to support the major upcoming activities along the APG schedule.

^{*}OTIS is the combined Optical Telescope Element (OTE) and Integrated Science Instrument Module (ISIM)

Summary of Progress – FY20 Q3



Preparations continue for observatory environmental testing. In Q3, this included completion of key deployment and stow activities, as well as a comprehensive system test.

COVID-19 has impacted the Northrop Grumman work schedule since March, causing delays to observatory testing. However, in late Q3, work at Northrop Grumman returned to two full shifts per day. This return to a near-nominal state allowed NASA to perform a schedule assessment to determine the impacts of COVID-19 delays and establish a new Launch Readiness Date (LRD) of October 31, 2021. The new LRD incorporates COVID-19 delays to date, anticipated COVID impacts moving forward (which will continue to reduce efficiency, though to a lesser degree, in Q4), and completion of additional risk-reduction tasks/technology, as well as appropriate schedule margin. No increase to the development budget is anticipated.

Key activities and accomplishments:

- Completed the Medium Infrared Instrument (MIRI) cryocooler fill
- Completed deployment/stow of the primary mirror wings
- Completed deployment #2 of telescope deployable tower assembly
- Continued observatory pre-environmental test preparations and preenvironmental test review
- Completed the comprehensive system test #4

Key Milestones



Progress update for the James Webb Space Telescope APG.

	FY 2020 Q1	FY 2020 Q2	Current Status FY 2020 Q3	Forecast FY 2020 Q4
Quarterly Rating	Yellow	Yellow	Green	\Longrightarrow
Milestones Achieved	0 of 1	1 of 2	3 of 3	

		Δ		П	
├ ✓	Unchanged	Ш	Improving	₹	Deteriorating

Milestone Summary							
Milestones	Milestone Due Date	Comments					
Complete second sunshield membrane deployment and folding	FY 2020 Q1	Completed January 2020					
Complete deployment #2 of telescope deployable tower assembly	FY 2020 Q2	Completed June 2020 (delayed due to COVID)					
Complete observatory pre-environmental test review	FY 2020 Q3	Completed June 25, 2020					
Complete observatory vibration and acoustics testing	FY 2020 Q4						
Complete final comprehensive system test	FY 2021 Q1						
Launch observatory	FY 2021 Q2						
Complete on-orbit checkout	FY 2021 Q3						
Initiate observatory commissioning	FY 2021 Q4						

Data Accuracy and Reliability



Verification and Validation:

 NASA monitors and tracks its progress towards this goal using various Agency documents and reports, including Directorate Program Management Council (DPMC) materials, monthly reports from the project and industry partners, and other programinternal documents.

Data Source(s):

 Emails and program-internal documents indicating progress NASA's industry partners make toward the James Webb Space Telescope integration, test and launch.

Level of Accuracy Required for Intended Use:

 Using the documents and reports referenced above, the Agency is able to accurately report at the end of each quarter on whether or not it has met its planned milestones.

Data Limitations:

Materials from the industry partners may include company proprietary information;
such information cannot be released publicly.

How the Agency Compensates for Data Limitations:

 NASA has not identified any data limitations that would preclude it from reporting accurate, reliable, and timely performance information.

Additional Information



Contributing Programs

NASA:

- James Webb Space Telescope (Webb) Program
- Space Communications and Navigation

Other: Webb is an international collaboration among NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

- ESA is providing the Ariane launch vehicle and some of the scientific instruments, including the Near Infrared Spectrometer and Mid-Infrared Instrument.
- CSA is providing the Fine Guidance Sensor, which will enable Webb to point precisely, so that it can obtain high-quality images
- Northrop-Grumman Aerospace Systems (NGAS) is the main NASA industrial contractor, responsible for building the optical telescope, spacecraft bus, and sunshield, and preparing the observatory for launch. NGAS has led a team including three major subcontractors: Ball Aerospace, Orbital-ATK, and Harris (formerly ITT Exelis).

Stakeholder/Congressional Consultations

NASA provides updates to Congress on the status of required milestones, in addition to quarterly updates to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). NASA also routinely provides status to the Government Accountability Office (GAO).