NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

NASA Headquarters
Public Affairs Office
Code P
300 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20546

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NASA's Organization

Introducing NASA Personnel, Programs, and Facilities

NASA HEADQUARTERS

Washington, DC 20546
981 civil servants

Agency management, which primarily resides as NASA Headquarters, is responsible for leadership and management across the Strategic Enterprises are Space Science, Earth Science, Human Exploration and Development of Space, and Aeronautics and Space Transportation Technology. Headquarters:

- Interfaces with the Administration and Congress
- Provides a focal point for accountability, communication, and liaison with external entities
- Provides budget integration, long-term institutional investment strategy, Agency policy and procedures, and functional leadership

AMES RESEARCH CENTER

Moffett Field, CA 94035
1,457 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence for Information Technology

NASA's second Center was founded in 1939 as an aeronautics research laboratory and named for National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) chairperson Dr. Joseph S. Ames. NASA Ames Research Center develops leading-edge aerospace technologies and services; conducts research in Earth, life and space sciences; and develops information systems and technologies enabling to all NASA missions. Specific areas of basic research and technology development include:

- Information systems—conducts leading-edge research in high-performance computing, networking, numerical computing software, artificial intelligence and human factors
- Astrobiology—studies the origin, evolution, distribution and destiny of life in the universe
- Gravitational biology, exobiology and ecosystem science
- Advanced studies—nanotechnology, biotechnology and information technology
- Thermal protection materials and systems; arc-jet testing
- Atmospheric chemistry and physics
- Aerospace operations systems and aviation system capacity
- Air traffic management and aerospace human factors
- Wind tunnel testing and flight simulation

DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards, CA 93523
650 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence For Atmospheric Flight Operations

The Dryden Flight Research Center, situated on Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California's Mojave desert, has been home of the historic X-plane testing since 1946. Dryden researches, develops, verifies, and transfers advanced aeronautics, space, and related technologies. Dryden's mission is to:

- Conduct aeronautical flight research in support of global civil aviation, revolutionary technology leaps, and access to space
- Support development and operations of the Space Shuttle and future access-to-space vehicles
- Conduct airborne science mission and flight operations
- Develop piloted and uninhabited aircraft test beds for research and science missions.

GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Cleveland, OH 44135
2,000 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence for Turbomachinery

International leader in jet engine research since 1941, Glenn defines and develops propulsion, space electrical power, and communications technologies for aeronautics and space systems. Glenn operates a unique collection of world-class facilities including wind tunnels and vacuum chambers. The Center develops technologies for:

- Aircraft engine noise and emissions reduction
- Space power systems, including the International Space Station
- Combustion and fluid management through microgravity sciences research
- Chemical and electric rocket propulsion
- Advanced communications satellites

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Greenbelt, MD 20771
2,944 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence for Scientific Research

Named for rocket propulsion pioneer Robert Goddard in 1959, Goddard has diverse responsibilities ranging from research in Earth science and astrophysics to satellite tracking and control. The Center:

- Directs development of the Earth Observing System (EOS)
- Manages and operates the Hubble Space Telescope
- Operates the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS), NASA's primary satellite communications network
- Controls more than two dozen spacecraft

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

Pasadena, CA 91109
5,175 contractors
NASA's Center of Excellence For Deep Space Systems

JPL, a Government-owned facility since 1944 and operated by the California Institute of Technology under a NASA contract, provides historic excellence in planetary science; it is the home of the worldwide Deep Space Network of large ground-based spacecraft communications dishes. JPL:

- Designs and operates spacecraft to explore the solar system
- Supports research in automated spacecraft operations and related computer science
- Develops advanced technology in spacecraft and science instrument miniaturization

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Houston, TX 77058
3,300 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence For Human Operations in Space

Established in 1961 as the Center for activities related to U.S. human space flight, Johnson manages the Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs. Major activities include:

- Shuttle and ISS mission control and operations planning
- Selection and training of astronauts
- Applied medical and life sciences research
- Studies of lunar samples returned by the Apollo program

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

KSC, FL 32899
1,727 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence For Launch and Cargo Processing Systems

Created in the early 1960's as the launch site for Apollo, and now the economic hub of central Florida's "Spacecoast," Kennedy launches the Space Shuttle and expendable rockets. The Center:

- Prepares four Space Shuttle orbiters for launch and services them upon return
- Manages and oversees NASA's Expendable Launch Vehicle programs
- Provides the primary landing site for the Shuttle
- Operates the Space Station Processing Facility, where components of the orbiting international laboratory are packaged for launch

LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

Hampton, VA 23665-5228
2,328 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence For Structures and Materials

Established in 1917 as the Nation's first astronautical research laboratory, Langley is responsible for some of the most important aeronautical advances of the 20th century.

The Center performs research and development in aerospace technology related to:

- Aviation safety, airframe systems, and revolutionary vehicle design
- Aerodynamics, aerothermodynamics, and acoustics
- Aerospace systems, concepts, and analysis
- General aviation, hypersonic, and supersonic fight
- Advanced structures, materials, and nondestructive testing
- Atmospheric sciences, satellites and space instrumentation

MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Huntsville, AL 35812
2,650 civil servants
NASA's Center of Excellence for Space Propulsion

NASA's lead Center for:

- Space Transportation Systems Development
- Microgravity Research and Space Product Development Programs
- Space Optics Manufacturing Technology

The Center:

- Manages the main rocket engines, external fuel tank and solid-fuel boosters for the Space Shuttle program
- In partnership with industry, manages the development and testing of the X-33, X-34, and X-37 technology demonstrators, demonstrating technologies needed for a next generation reusable launch vehicle
- Conducts science research in materials, biotechnology, global hydrology, climate, and astrophysics
- Supports development of the International Space Station with flight hardware and manages the payload operations for all science aboard the Space Station
- Manages continuing operations of the highly successful Chandra X-ray Observatory, currently in Earth orbit

Under the direction of Dr. Wernher von Braun, the Marshall Center created the Saturn rocket that took the Nation to the Moon. Marshall Center now stands poised to lead NASA to the stars.

STENNIS SPACE CENTER

SSC, MS 39529-5000
257 civil servants
NASA's lead Center for rocket propulsion testing and for commercial remote sensing within the Earth Science Enterprise

Stennis is the largest rocket propulsion-testing complex in the Nation. Stennis supports the Space Shuttle Program and leads in the Agency's efforts in partnering with industry to develop and implement remote sensing technology.

- Maintains and operates a range of engine test-firing stands
- Issue grants and provides expertise in land-use planning and other applications of Earth remote sensing data

WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY

Wallops Island, VA 23337
250 civil servants

One of the world's original rocket launch sites founded in 1945, Wallops manages NASA's suborbital sounding rocket program and scientific balloon flights to Earth's upper atmosphere.

Wallops primary focus is on integration, launch and operation of suborbital and small orbital payloads and on serving as an operational test site for the next generation of low-cost launch technologies.

Wallops mission elements include:

- Suborbital Projects
- Orbital Projects
- Test Range and Interagency and Commercial Support

INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICES

203 civil servants

Detecting and preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement in NASA programs and activities, all Inspector General employees are assigned to Headquarters, with duty stations at various Center locations.