

NASA Plans to Launch its first orbital workshop in

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*using 1st
2 stages
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MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, Ala. -- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced plans today to launch its first orbital workshop in 1972 using the first two stages of the Saturn V as the launch vehicle.

Use of the first two stages of the Saturn V will permit full outfitting of the workshop on the ground and will permit the launching of the workshop with Apollo Telescope Mount attached into a 220-nautical-mile circular orbit.

At an earlier date, NASA announced its intent to use a second stage of the Saturn IB as its first orbital workshop in 1971. After its initial use as a propulsion system to reach Earth orbit, the spent stage was to have been prepared by the astronauts while in orbit for the conduct of scientific and biomedical experiments. The Apollo Telescope Mount was to be launched by another Saturn IB, with automatic rendezvous and docking to the workshop after arrival in orbit.

NASA now plans to use the launch capability of the larger Saturn V to launch the workshop and the ATM together. The workshop will be



outfitted on the ground, and will arrive in orbit equipped for immediate occupancy by the astronauts.

Basic program objectives remain the same as those originally announced. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an environment in which man can live and work under controlled conditions for extended periods of time in space beyond that provided by Gemini and Apollo.

The experiments will study man's physiological and psychological responses in the space environment and provide more detailed information on his capabilities for extended manned flight.

The Apollo Telescope Mount will permit man to conduct astronomical observations under conditions free from optical interference of the Earth's atmosphere, and will provide a platform to demonstrate man's ability to perform scientific experiments in space by operating high resolution astronomical telescopes.

The Saturn V workshop will be launched unmanned from Complex 39 at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla. About a day later a three-man crew will be launched in an Apollo spacecraft atop the smaller Saturn IB vehicle from Complex 34 at KSC. The spacecraft will rendezvous and dock with the workshop and occupy it for up to 28 days during which time ATM experiments will be conducted. Later revisits of up to 56 days duration will be made using the Saturn IB/Apollo combination.

The Saturn V workshop is a modified S-IVB stage which will have its 10,000 cubic-foot hydrogen tank equipped to offer living and working areas for three astronauts for periods of up to 56 days. The Apollo Telescope Mount will be attached at the forward end of the workshop and launched integrally with the workshop thus making it available for use throughout the workshop operation.

The change in plans will permit simplification of the previously announced 1971 mission as well as augment the capability of that mission to perform space and Earth-oriented research. Saturn V hardware from the Apollo program is available to support the revised plan.

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