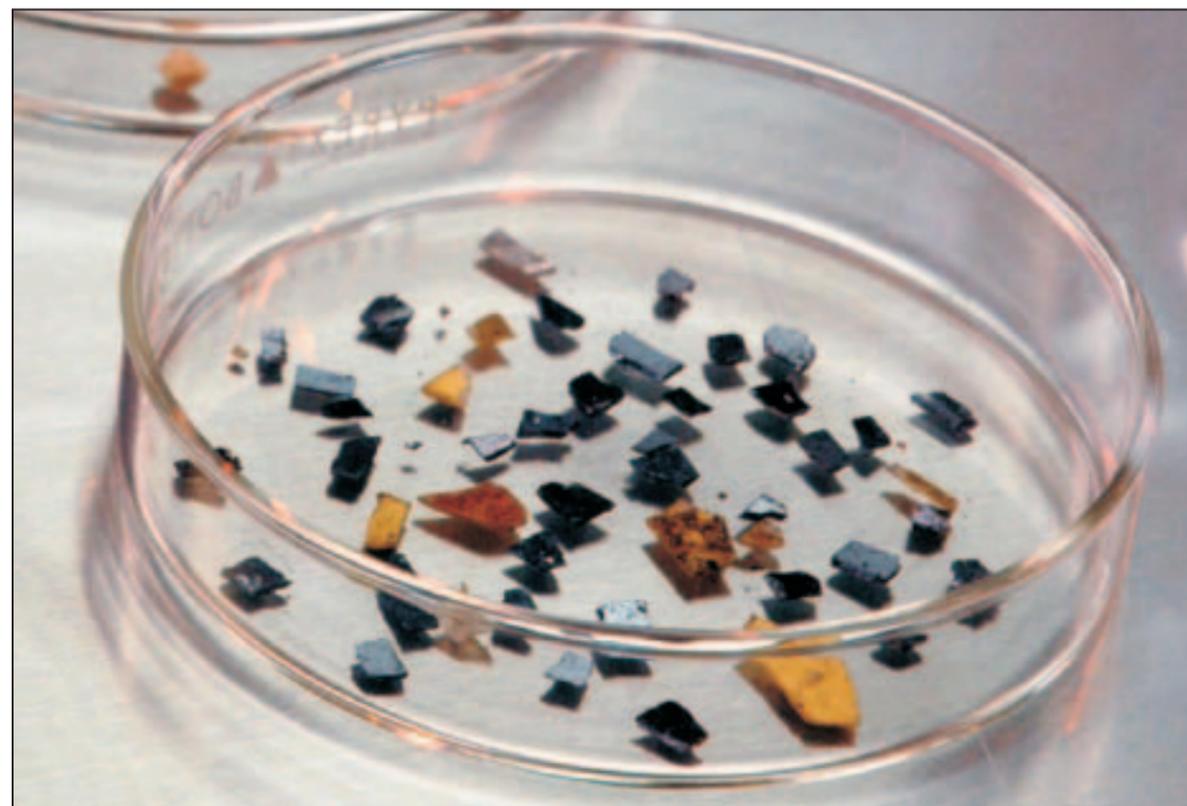


by Joanne Hale

Genesis



Courtesy JPL

Genesis team specialists are beginning the process of conducting inventory of the contents of the craft's science canister. The team is handling the canister and the sample return capsule in a methodical manner. The canister is inside a clean room at the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

NASA's Genesis spacecraft came back to Earth on Sept. 8 at 9:52:47 MDT at the U.S. Air Force Test and Training Range, Dugway Proving Ground, southwest of Salt Lake City right on schedule. However, the Genesis capsule, as a result of its parachute not deploying, impacted the ground at a speed of 193 mph. The impact that occurred near Granite Peak on a remote portion of the range did not result in any injuries to people or structures.

The Genesis capsule – carrying the Agency's first sample return since the final Apollo lunar mission in 1972, and the first material collected beyond the Moon – was originally designed to deploy a drogue parachute at an altitude of 108,000 feet. Six minutes later, the main parachute, a parafoil, would deploy enabling two helicopters and their flight crews to make a midair retrieval of the capsule and bring it safely to Earth.

By the time the capsule entered Earth's atmosphere, the flight crews tasked to capture Genesis were already in the air. Once it was confirmed the capsule touched down out on the range, the flight crews were guided toward the site to initiate a previously developed contingency plan. They landed close to the capsule and, per the plan, began to document the capsule and the area.

Scientists, who conducted the preliminary assessment of the Genesis canister, say they are encouraged by what they see. They say they believe it may be possible to achieve the most important portions of their science objectives.

"We are bouncing back from a hard landing, and spirits are picking up again," Orlando Figueroa, deputy associate administrator for Programs for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington said.

"This may result in snatching victory from the jaws of defeat," Dr. Roger Wiens of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, a member of the Genesis science team, said. "We are very encouraged."

The Genesis mission was launched in August 2001 to capture samples from the storehouse of 99 percent of all the material in our solar system – the Sun. These samples of solar wind particles, collected on ultra-pure wafers of gold, sapphire, silicon and diamond, could provide scientists with vital information on the composition of the Sun, which could in turn shed light on the origins of our solar system.

We are pleased and encouraged by the preliminary inspection.

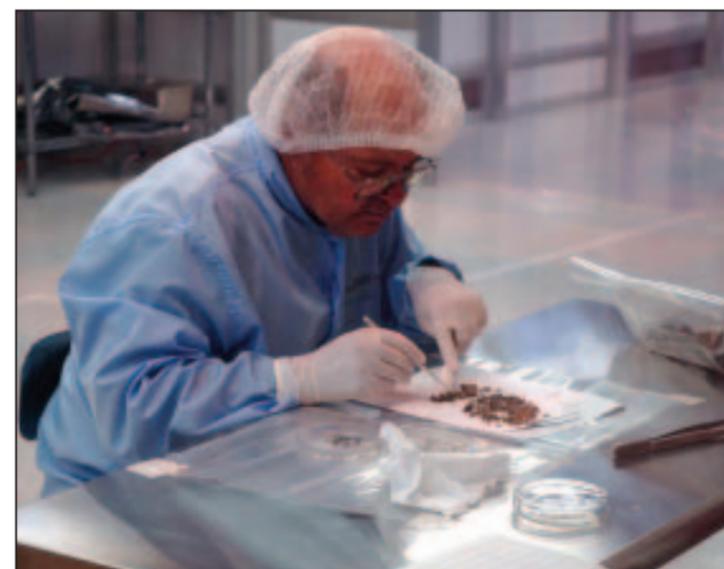
Sean O'Keefe

"We have the capsule," Genesis Project Manager Don Sweetnam of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. said. "It is on the ground. We have previously written procedures and tools at our disposal for such an event. We are beginning capsule recovery operations at this time."

The canister was subsequently moved to a clean room at the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground where Genesis team specialists immediately began the process of conducting inventory of the contents of the craft's science canister. Once the inventory is completed, the materials will be transferred to Johnson Space Center as originally planned.

Based on initial inspection of the canister, it is possible a repository of the solar wind materials may have survived that will keep the science community busy for some time.

"We are pleased and encouraged by the preliminary inspection," NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said. "The outstanding design and sturdy construction of Genesis may yield the important scientific results we hoped for from the mission," he said.



Courtesy JPL



Courtesy JPL

The Genesis sample return capsule landed well within the projected ellipse path in the Utah Test and Training Range on Sept. 8, but its parachutes did not open. Scientists who conducted the preliminary assessment of the Genesis canister are encouraged by what they see. The team continues its meticulous work and believes that a significant repository of solar wind materials may have survived that will keep the science community busy for some time.

Changing Lives

by Joanne Hale



With a tradition of commitment to the community through the selfless efforts of federal employees, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has its roots in the many charitable campaigns of the early 1960s. Seeing a need to bring the diversity of fund-raising efforts under one umbrella, federal employees created the CFC. It is one campaign, once a year.

By allowing employees to select the organizations of their choice from a single brochure and to make their contributions through payroll deductions, the CFC opened wide the door to more opportunities for generous giving to literally hundreds of worthy causes.

“Once again, it’s that time of year when we kick-off the Combined Federal Campaign,” Johnson Space Center Deputy Director Bob Cabana said. “We’ve shown time and again how we take care of our own in times of need and we are definitely blessed to be part of the ‘NASA family.’ The CFC is an excellent opportunity to use that caring spirit that we have to give something back to our community and help take care of those who are less fortunate than us.”

The CFC is a designation campaign, which means a person can designate a donation to one specific charity or as many as five different charities. There are more than 1,800 local, national and international charities listed in the CFC Agency Guide.

“I encourage each of you to examine the many ways you can make a difference in the lives of those around you, your community and your country,” Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., JSC center director, said. “With your ongoing support, I am confident that together we can continue to make a difference by giving generously to this year’s Combined Federal Campaign.”



The JSC CFC campaign runs from Sept. 27 through Nov. 8. The Centerwide goal this year is \$600,000.

“Giving to the CFC is very personal for me. I lost my mother to cancer and my wife’s mother to

Alzheimer’s, two organizations I have gladly contributed to in the past,” Bob Fitzmaurice, education programs specialist and NASA CFC loaned executive-Gulf Coast region, said. “My adult son was recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, so my contribution this year will go to the American Diabetes Association. When serious illness hits home, it brings into focus what needs to be done. Contributing to the research and development of these problems is money well spent.”

All employees at JSC – contract, federal and military – plus JSC retirees may participate with a one-time gift by cash or check (made payable to the CFC). In addition, federal employees may contribute through payroll deductions that would take effect in January 2005. Last year, the JSC family demonstrated their generous One NASA spirit by contributing \$630,000.

“The CFC is a fantastic way to reach out to those less fortunate and give them just a little help when they need it,” Joel Walker, director of center operations, said. “The number and variety of worthy charities is just incredible, and the process to designate a gift is really simple. The hardest part for me is deciding which charities I will support. As I live each year, I continue to encounter the work of these wonderful agencies, and it really is amazing how much good work is done from the gifts we give.”

JSC has more than 80 organization canvassers from across the Center working with JSC CFC Chair Truda Furr to help make this opportunity available. “This year’s theme ‘Every 1 of Us’ reflects the NASA team spirit and reminds us that it truly takes every one of us to reach our goal,” Furr said. “Reaching our goal is a success we can all take pride in, knowing we have given back to the community and helped those who are in need.”

Contact your organization’s coordinator or canvasser for pledge cards and further campaign information, and be sure to ask about the drawings for parking spots. Your CFC committee is trying once again this year to have the money/donations you give go where they are needed.

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A MESSAGE FROM Bill Parsons

Yes, it’s time again to kick off the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Each of us is so fortunate to be a member of the NASA family, and to be a part of the noble endeavor of human spaceflight.

Last year our NASA family suffered a great loss. Very few of us expected to be in a situation where we needed an outpouring of support and compassion from the East Texas communities. Yet, it was through such charity and commitment that we were able to identify the cause of the *Columbia* accident and move forward. Since that time, we have been doing the work that will enable us to safely return to flight.

Many of the organizations that helped us during our time of need receive funding from the CFC. Choosing where your money goes, from national to state to hometown organizations, is the ultimate form of giving. If we support CFC, the money is already there and ready to help people. Hurricane Charley recently hit Florida – a place where many of us have lived or visited – and dozens of agencies rushed to aid the victims. Their ability to help was by a large extent influenced by CFC contributions.

I believe that just as the NASA Team is earnestly building grassroots support for the Vision for Space Exploration, these organizations also need our support to accomplish their tasks. I highly encourage you to choose some worthy groups and give generously. Please take the time to fill out your donation form, and remember: how much you give is not nearly as important as your participation.