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# SPACE CENTER Roundup

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## President's NASA budget \$13.6 billion

**P**resident Bill Clinton is proposing a \$13.57 billion budget for NASA in fiscal year 2000, a slight decrease from fiscal 1999's \$13.66 billion mark.

The 2000 budget request to Congress includes \$2.48 billion for the International Space Station, up slightly from \$2.3 billion in 1999; \$3.15 billion for launch vehicles and payload operations, including space shuttle expenditures, down slightly from \$3.17 billion in 1999; \$5.42 billion for science, aeronautics and technology, down from \$5.65 billion in 1999; \$1 billion for aerospace technology, down from \$1.33 billion in 1999; \$2.49 billion for mission support, down slightly from \$2.51 billion in 1999; and \$20.8 million for the Office of the Inspector General.

"For the past seven years, I've had the honor of standing before you ... to present the proposed NASA budget," NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin said during a Feb. 1 press conference. "And as the years have passed by, the record of accomplishment grows and the promise of the future gets brighter. And this year is no exception. NASA keeps getting better and better."

Goldin said that even though the budget request for FY 2000 is slightly below last year's funding level, "we have more

money for space science, for exciting new missions and for the research and advanced technologies that will enable bold, new ventures in the future."

Explorations of Jupiter, Europa, Mars and Saturn are among these. Investments in new technologies that have reduced costs have made these ventures possible.

He applauded the NASA team for thinking "out of the box" and for "looking at technologies like air-breathing rockets, advanced information technologies and ultra-high temperature materials to cut the cost of launch by two orders of magnitude and improve safety by four orders of magnitude." The NASA team "continues to deliver, probing deeper and deeper into the universe, launching shuttle after shuttle safely and for less money, increasing our understanding of planet Earth, testing and developing new

technologies for the new millennium, pushing the envelope on space-based medical research."

Goldin said that the Clinton Administration has backed off a proposal

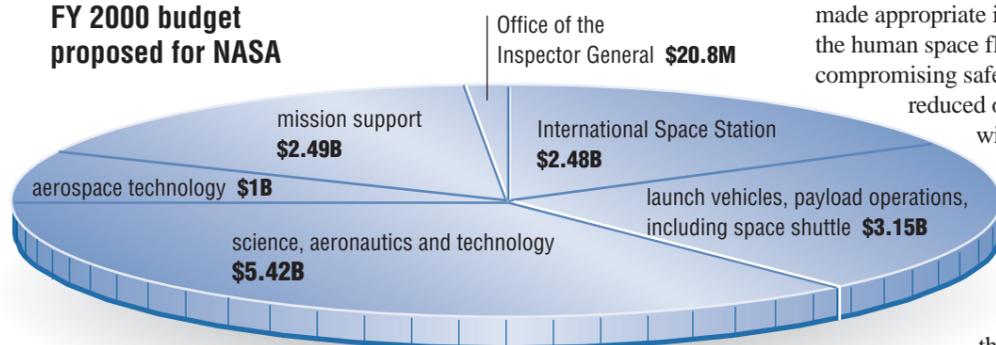
propellant and dry goods. Goldin noted that NASA covered FY 1998 and FY 1999 impacts and asked the Administration for assistance in covering FY 2000 and future costs. The Administration agreed to do so "after determining that we, NASA, had made appropriate internal reductions in the human space flight account without compromising safety and that we had

reduced other NASA programs with lower priority," he said.

No reductions are targeted for shuttle operations because significant steps have been taken to make the program safer and more efficient. Goldin noted that as a result of continuous improvements and upgrades, the shuttle system now costs the American taxpayer 21 percent less to operate than it did in 1991 and 40 percent less when inflation is taken into account.

According to Goldin, NASA has asked The Boeing Co. to analyze the cost of completing construction of the existing space station habitation module. A decision whether to proceed with it or to use the TransHab instead will then be made. ■

**FY 2000 budget proposed for NASA**



to pay the Russians to preserve their participation in the International Space Station. Last year, a decision was made to assist Russia in the near-term to facilitate its completion of essential station components, such as the Service Module, which is scheduled for launch no earlier than September.

NASA also moved forward to mitigate potential adverse impacts on the station's operations should the Russian partners not meet their commitments for supplying

## Former JSC director to receive National Space Trophy

**F**ormer Johnson Space Center Director Dr. Christopher Kraft Jr. will receive the prestigious 1999 National Space Trophy from the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Foundation.

The trophy, permanently housed at Space Center Houston, is presented annually to an individual selected by leaders of the aerospace industry for contributions to the United States space program. Last year's recipient was President George Bush.

"I'm pleased to be considered among all those who have received the award before," said Kraft. "Awards like these are given to the people who did the job and allowed me to be their leader. We must recognize that there were thousands of people, civil servants and contractor employees, who worked together over the years to make the space program successful."

A native of Phoebus, Va., Kraft began his career with the National Advisory

Committee on Aeronautics in 1945 at Langley Research Center in Virginia. He joined the Space Task Group in 1961 as director of Flight Operations and immediately did much of the pioneering work for Project Mercury and the nation's human space flight program.

As director of Flight Operations, he led his group in developing flight rules and operational procedures that became the foundation for human space flight missions from Mercury through today's space programs. His foresight in perceiving the necessity for establishing alternate courses of action and detailed procedures to be followed in the event of systems failures is seen as one of his major contributions to human space flight.

As director of Flight Operations at the Manned Spacecraft Center during the Apollo era, he was responsible for a major facet of one of the most difficult engineering tasks this nation has



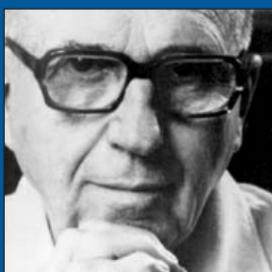
Dr. Christopher Kraft Jr.

undertaken – landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth. His group successfully managed all operational aspects of the first and second lunar landings.

In 1972, he was appointed director of the Manned Space Center (later renamed the Johnson Space Center) where he directed the center's engineering, scientific, and management activities related to Apollo, Skylab and the Apollo-Soyuz programs. He served as director of JSC until August 1982.

Kraft developed new concepts in science and engineering and incorporated them into the space program. His studies led to the current configuration for managing operational aspects of the Space Shuttle Program.

The trophy will be presented at an awards banquet March 12 at Space Center Houston. ■



Scholarship fund requests applications.

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Cooke pushes limits in space and at sea.

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JSC workers earn Silver Snoopy Awards.

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