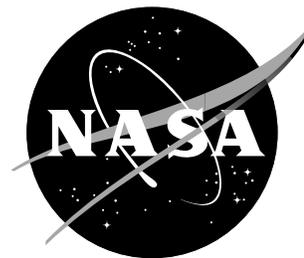


NewsRelease



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Langley Research Center
Hampton, Virginia 23681-2199

Chris Rink
(757) 864-6786

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NOTE TO EDITORS: SAGE III ON RUSSIAN SPACECRAFT NASA Langley climate instrument ready for Launch Dec. 10

The launch of a NASA remote-sensing satellite instrument aboard a Russian spacecraft is scheduled to occur on Monday, Dec. 10 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The launch window is approximately three minutes in duration starting at 12:17 p.m. EST.

Developed and managed by NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va., the Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment III (SAGE III) is a remote sensing instrument that will fly aboard the Russian Meteor-3M spacecraft launched by a Ukraine-built Zenit-2 Rocket. SAGE III is expected to make precise measurements of the ozone, aerosols, water vapors and other gases so researchers can better understand how and why the climate is changing.

SAGE III/Meteor-3M is a joint partnership between NASA and the Russian Aviation and Space Agency. The SAGE III instrument is part of NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, a long-term research effort being conducted to determine how human-induced and natural changes affect our global environment.

NASA SAGE III NEWS CONTACTS

Information concerning the SAGE III/Meteor-3M launch is available by calling Chris Rink from NASA Langley Research Center Public Affairs at 757-864-6786 or Dave Steitz from NASA Headquarters Public Affairs at 202-358-1730.

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