

William Borucki is a space scientist at the NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif. He received a master's degree in physics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1962 and then moved to Silicon Valley where he first worked on the development of the heat shield for the Apollo Mission in the Hypersonic Free Flight Branch at NASA Ames. After the successful moon landings, he transferred to the Theoretical Studies Branch where he investigated lightning activity in planetary atmospheres and developed mathematical models to predict the effects of nitric oxides and chlorofluoromethanes on Earth's ozone layer. Currently he is the Science Principal Investigator for the Kepler Mission that uses transit photometry to observe over 100,000 stars and is designed to determine the frequency of terrestrial planets orbiting in and near the habitable zones of other stars. Kepler launched on March 6, 2009, and is now in the science operations phase.