National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASAfacts

NASA's Ames Research Center

NASA's center in Silicon Valley

Ames Research Center, one of 10 NASA field centers, is located in California's Silicon Valley. For more than 70 years, Ames has been a leader in conducting world-class research and development.

Location: California's Silicon Valley, 40 miles south of San Francisco; 12 miles north of San Jose, between Mountain View and Sunnyvale

Jobs: Approximately 2,500 on-site employees and contractors

Economic impact: $1.3B annually for the U.S.; $932M for California and $877M for Bay Area, creating more than 8,400 jobs in the U.S. with 5,900 in California (*2010 Economic Benefits Study*).

Established: Dec. 20, 1939 as part of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA); became part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958.

Missions: Ames-related missions scheduled for launch in 2013 include LADEE, PhoneSat, EDSN, EcAMSat, SporeSat and IRIS. Ames will launch several space biosciences payloads this year. The center is lead for the Mars Curiosity rover's Chemistry and Mineralogy (CheMin) instrument and for NASA's first mission capable of finding Earth-size and smaller planets around other stars, Kepler.

Ames provides NASA with advancements in:

Entry systems: *Safely delivering spacecraft to Earth and other celestial bodies.*

Supercomputing: *Enabling NASA's advanced modeling and simulation.*

Next generation air transportation: *Transforming the way we fly.*

Airborne science: *Examining our own world and beyond from the sky.*

Low-cost missions: *Enabling high value science to low Earth orbit and the moon.*

Biology and astrobiology: *Understanding life on Earth -- and in space.*

Exoplanets: *Finding worlds beyond our own.*

Autonomy and robotics: *Complementing humans in space.*

Lunar science: *Rediscovering our moon.*

Human factors: *Advancing human-technology interaction for NASA missions.*

Wind tunnels: *Testing on the ground before you take to the sky.*

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