



**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
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MADRID 210 ANTENNA DEDICATION SET

Dignitaries of the United States and Spanish governments will dedicate the newest American space communications facility, completing another link in NASA's global Deep Space Network of "super antennas," in a ceremony May 10 at the station site near Madrid.

Speakers and principal participants will include Dr. James C. Fletcher, NASA Administrator; His Royal Highness Don Juan Carlos De Borbon Y Borbon, Prince of Spain; Don Mariano Cuadra Medina, Spanish Minister of Air; Don Luis Azcarraga Y Perez-Caballero, President of Spain's National Space Research Commission; Horacio Rivero, U.S. Ambassador to Spain; Gerald M. Truszynski, NASA Associate Administrator for Tracking and Data Acquisition, and Gen. Charles H. Terhune Jr., Deputy Director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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May 6, 1974

Located at Robledo de Chavela, about 40 miles west of the Spanish capital, the new facility is equipped with a 64-meter (210-foot) diameter antenna -- one of the world's largest and most sensitive instruments for spacecraft missions to the planets. It joins two other Deep Space Network (DSN) facilities, with 26-meter (85-foot) antennas. Together they comprise the Madrid Space Communications Complex of the DSN.

The DSN, with other major tracking and communications complexes at Goldstone, Calif., and near Canberra, Australia, is operated for NASA's Office of Tracking and Data Acquisition by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of the California Institute of Technology. Control center for the DSN is at JPL in Pasadena, Calif.

The Madrid stations are operated for NASA and JPL by the Spanish government's Instituto Nacional de Tecnica Aeroespacial under continuing agreements between Spain and the United States.

Construction of the new installation began in 1969 and was completed last summer. It became operational in the fall of 1973 and was one of three tracking facilities "on line" for the launch of Mariner 10 to Venus and Mercury last November as well as the Pioneer 10 encounter with Jupiter last December.

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On March 23, 1974, the new Madrid antenna received the first transmission of TV pictures of Mercury from Mariner 10, and, for the next 10 days, shared with its 64-meter counterparts in California and Australia the responsibility for acquiring more than 2,000 pictures of Mercury and millions of other scientific measurements at the planet.

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