



## News Release

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### SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE RESEARCHER WORKING TO DEVELOP NEXT GENERATION SPACE TELESCOPE

The Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado, is pleased to announce that one of its senior researchers is working to define the scientific payload for the Next Generation Space Telescope, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope.

Heidi Hammel was selected as an Interdisciplinary Scientist for the new space-based facility. She will serve on a NASA committee charged with selecting the most effective instruments for allowing the telescope to achieve its scientific objectives.

NASA announced Tuesday that the prime contractors for the future orbiting observatory would be TRW of Redondo Beach, California, who is partnered with Ball Aerospace Systems of Boulder, Colorado. The U.S. space agency also announced that the telescope would be named for James E. Webb, the man who stewarded NASA through its glorious Apollo era.

The James Webb Space Telescope is scheduled for launch in 2010. It will be able to see farther back into the early history of the universe than the Hubble Space Telescope, due to its larger primary mirror and the exquisite sensitivity of its infrared light-sensitive cameras. Many of the farthest young galaxies we can observe are visible only in the infrared portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Hammel, who has used the Hubble Space Telescope extensively, says that not only will the Webb Telescope be bigger than Hubble, it will also be different.

"Hubble allows us to see the universe at and around those wavelengths which our eyes can perceive," she said, "The infrared capabilities of this new space telescope will give us eyes that can see just what the universe was up to not long after the Big Bang."

Hammel is especially interested in helping to ensure that the Webb Telescope can be used to study objects in our own Solar System.

The Space Science Institute is a nonprofit organization whose unique mission is to integrate scientific research with education and public outreach. Its scientists perform research in the areas of planetary science, space physics, astrophysics, astrobiology, and earth science.

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