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ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT

MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER - ALA.



ESTABLISHMENT OF LAGEOS TASK TEAM

The responsibility for the definition of the Laser Geodynamic Satellite (LAGEOS) Spacecraft Project has been assigned to the Marshall Space Flight Center.

LAGEOS is the first in a series of satellites for application to earth and ocean dynamics investigations. It will be concerned with physical motions and distortions of the solid earth that cause disturbances such as earthquakes, tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, mineral differentiation, and mountain building. LAGEOS will be a completely passive, solid sphere fitted with retro-reflector cube corners to permit accurate laser ranging from ground-based stations. The sphere will weigh approximately 635 kg (1400 lbs.) with a diameter of approximately 46 cm (18 in.). Because it will be visible in all parts of the world and will have an extended operating life in orbit, LAGEOS can serve as a fundamental global standard for decades.

In order to provide appropriate emphasis to this important project during the Phase B definition phase, I am establishing the LAGEOS Task Team within Program Development and appointing Mr. D. R. Bowden as Task Team Manager, effective December 3, 1973. Mr. Bowden previously served as Chief, Engineering Branch, Saturn Workshop Project, Skylab Program Office. Mr. Lewis L. McNair will serve as the S&E Project Engineer for LAGEOS and will represent and be responsible to the S&E Director. He will be the focal point for S&E support to the Task Team.

I urge all organizations to support Mr. Bowden and his staff to assure successful definition of this important project.

John A. Petrone
for Rocco A. Petrone
Director

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