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LAGEOS TASK TEAM FORMED AT MSFC

MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, Ala. --Dr. Rocco A. Petrone, director of the NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center, has announced the establishment of the Laser Geodynamic Satellite (LAGEOS) Task Team within the Program Development directorate at MSFC.

The responsibility for the definition of the LAGEOS spacecraft project was assigned to MSFC recently by NASA Headquarters.

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.

The satellite 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 kilograms (1,400 pounds) with a diameter of approximately 46 centimeters (18 inches). 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.

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November 20, 1973

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D. R. Bowden will serve as LAGEOS task team manager. He previously served as chief of the Engineering Branch, Saturn Workshop project, Skylab Program Office. Lewis L. McNair will be the project engineer for LAGEOS in the Science & Engineering Directorate.

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