

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON FUTURE SPACE ASTRONOMY AND SPACE PHYSICS MISSIONS (A7)  
Space Agency Strategies and Plans (1)

Author: Mr. Gregory Robinson  
NASA Headquarters, United States, gregory.l.robinson@nasa.gov

## JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

**Abstract**

The James Webb Space Telescope will be NASA's next great observatory. Planned for launch in 2021, Webb will enable revolutions in astronomy due to its incredible capabilities as the largest space telescope ever developed. From unveiling the most distant and first galaxies to form after the Big Bang to probing the atmospheres of nearby exoplanets Webb will make discoveries in all areas of astrophysics. The observatory is now undergoing its final testing in preparation for launch. This international partnership with ESA and CSA the Ariane 5 rocket to journey to L2 where it will begin its science mission after a six month commissioning period. I will cover some of the science highlights expected from Webb, provide highlights of the engineering challenges associated with constructing this deployable observatory and describe the commissioning activities and preparations for science.