

Queen Elizabeth to visit NASA space center

April 26 2007

NASA officials say Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland next month.

The May 8 tour of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility in Greenbelt, Md., is scheduled near the end of the queen's visit to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia.

"NASA is honored to be one of the U.S. organizations hosting a visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin. "The United States and the United Kingdom have a strong partnership in space, from British-born mission astronauts who serve in NASA's astronaut corps to the numerous joint scientific and research efforts under way."

The royal visit to Goddard will include a presentation and reception with employees, a demonstration of the new Science on a Sphere visualization system, and a tree planting ceremony at the Goddard visitor center.

NASA officials said the queen will have an opportunity to speak with the current crew aboard the International Space Station, while the duke will tour facilities used to build and evaluate satellites and equipment being prepared for space flight.

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