

Space image: Through the looking glass

June 15 2011



Image Credit: NASA/Tom Tschida

The NASA logo on Bldg. 703 at the Dryden Aircraft Operations Facility in Palmdale, Calif., is reflected in the 2.5-meter primary mirror of the SOFIA observatory's telescope.

SOFIA--the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy-- is an airborne observatory, built to complement the Hubble, Spitzer and

Herschel space telescopes, as well as major Earth-based telescopes.

SOFIA features a German-built 100-inch (2.5 meter) diameter far-infrared telescope weighing 20 tons mounted in the rear fuselage of a modified [Boeing 747SP](#) aircraft. It is one of the premier space science programs of NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

SOFIA is a joint program between NASA and the German Aerospace Center.

Provided by JPL/NASA

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