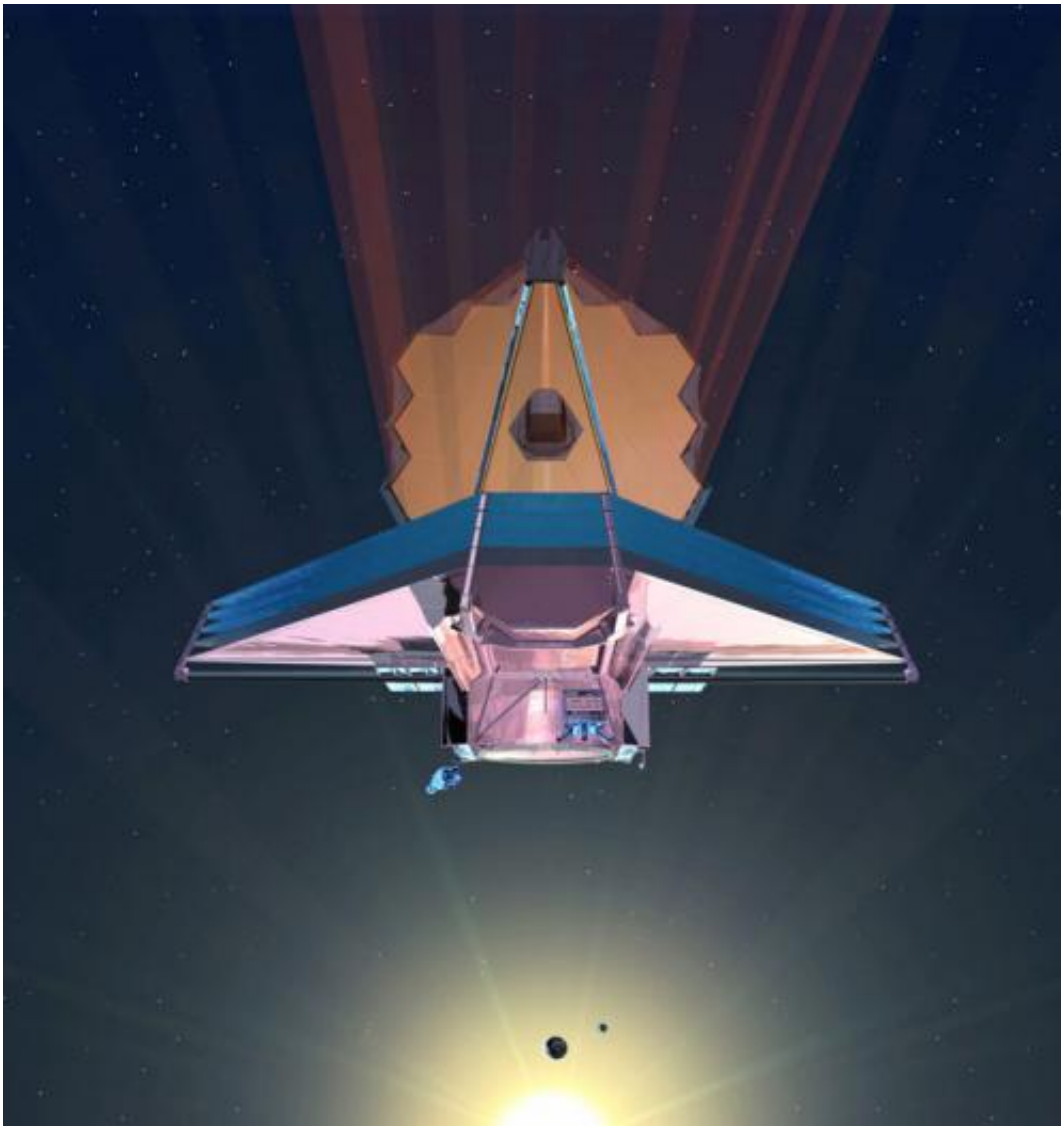


Senate saves the James Webb Space Telescope

September 15 2011, By Jason Major



The 2012 fiscal year appropriation bill, marked up today by the Senate, allows for continued funding of the James Webb Space Telescope and support up to a launch in 2018! Yes, it looks like this bird is going to fly.

The [James Webb Space Telescope](#) will be the premier [observatory](#) of the next decade, serving thousands of [astronomers](#) worldwide. It will study every phase in the history of our Universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the [Big Bang](#), to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own [Solar System](#). JWST will be a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-meter primary mirror.

Thanks to everyone who contacted their representatives and expressed their support of the JWST, to all the websites out there that made it particularly simple to do so, and of course to all the state representatives who stood behind the program and didn't allow it to get mothballed. The space science community thanks you and the current and future generations of astronomers, physicists, cosmologists and explorers thank you.

"In a spending bill that has less to spend, we naturally focus on the cuts and the things we can't do. But I'd like to focus on what we can do. The bill invests more than \$12 billion in scientific research and high impact research and technology development, to create new products and new jobs for the future," said CJS Subcommittee Chairwoman, Barbara Mikulski

In addition to continued funding for the telescope the 2012 bill also allots the National Aeronautics and Space Administration \$17.9 billion (a reduction of \$509 million or 2.8 percent from the 2011 enacted level) and preserves NASA's portfolio balanced among science, aeronautics, technology and human space flight investments, including the Orion Multipurpose Crew Vehicle, the heavy lift Space [Launch](#) System, and commercial crew development.

In this tighter economy, all of the agencies funded under the bill are also called on to be better stewards of taxpayers' dollars, and waste and overspending will be much more closely monitored.

Read the bill summary [here](#).

Source: [Universe Today](#)

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