

New Taiwanese centre to probe origins of universe

July 3 2012



Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou (2nd L) looks at a model of the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer II (AMS II) at the Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology. Taiwan opened a space research control centre Tuesday, as part of an ambitious international project aimed at exploring the origins of the universe.

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Facilities at the Payload Operations and Control Centre in the northern Lungtan township started monitoring signals transmitted from the [International Space Station](#) immediately after the inauguration.

"This is a new milestone in Taiwan's scientific and research development," President Ma Ying-jeou said at the ceremony attended by

several Nobel laureates and scientists from NASA.

The centre, the first of its kind in Asia, is part of the Alpha [Magnetic Spectrometer](#), an international space research project launched in 1999.

Headed by [Nobel laureate](#) particle physicist Samuel Ting, the project measures cosmic rays, which among other things provide clues about the origins of the universe.

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Citation: New Taiwanese centre to probe origins of universe (2012, July 3) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-07-taiwanese-centre-probe-universe.html>

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