

NASA's Webb Telescope receives top space foundation award

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The protostar within the dark cloud L1527, shown in this image from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam), is embedded within a cloud of material feeding its growth. Ejections from the star have cleared out cavities above and below it, whose boundaries glow orange and blue in this infrared view. The upper central region displays bubble-like shapes due to stellar “burps,” or sporadic ejections. Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI. Image processing: J. DePasquale, A. Pagan, and A. Koekemoer (STScI)

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope team has been selected to receive the 2023 John L. "Jack" Swigert, Jr., Award for Space Exploration, a top award from the Space Foundation. This annual award honors a space agency, company, or consortium of organizations in the realm of space

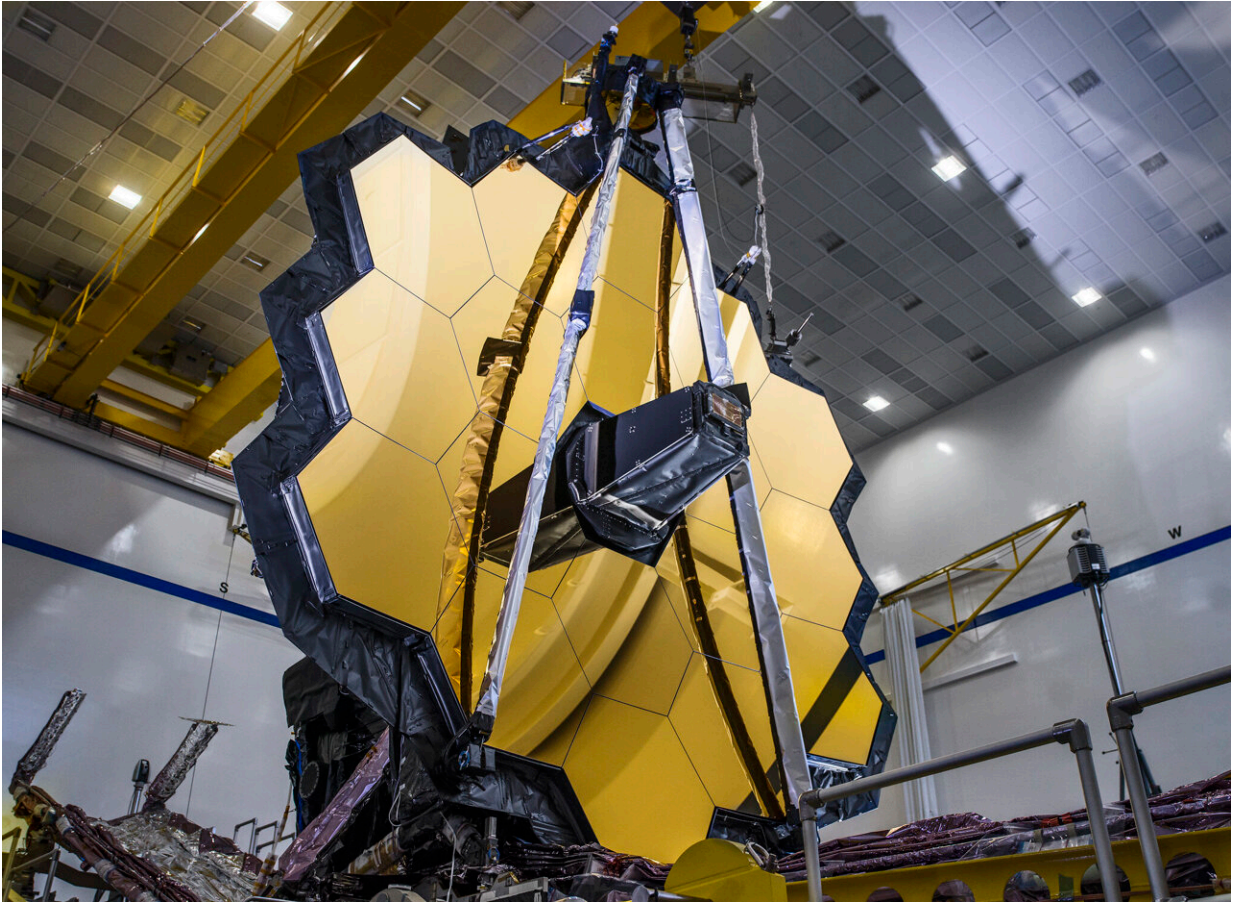
exploration and discovery.

"The James Webb Space Telescope team represents the best of our humanity and an enduring pursuit to better understand the cosmos. Every new image is a new discovery," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

"Webb is the culmination of decades of persistence and once-unthinkable human ingenuity made possible by international partnerships. Together, we are unfolding the universe and inspiring the world."

The award will be presented at the Space Foundation's yearly opening ceremony of the Space Symposium in Colorado on April 17.

"Within its first year of operations, the work and revelations by the James Webb Space Telescope team has opened an entirely new chapter of knowledge and inspiration that will forever change our lives and history," said Space Foundation CEO Tom Zelibor. "This is an unparalleled achievement and is transforming astronomy and [space](#) science while delivering new inspiration and imagination to every generation and corner of our planet. The partnerships and collaborations between nations, researchers, industry members, and more have also highlighted the incredible things we can do together as we promote knowledge."



NASA's James Webb Space Telescope in a cleanroom. Credit: NASA

Webb, the world's premier space science [telescope](#), launched Dec. 25, 2021. In 2022, the Webb team successfully completed an intricate series of deployments to [unfold the observatory](#) into its final configuration in space. They then precisely [aligned its mirrors](#) to within nanometers, set up and tested its powerful instruments, and officially [began Webb's mission](#) to explore the infrared universe.

With its optics performing nearly twice as well as the mission required, Webb is discovering some of the [earliest galaxies](#) ever observed, peering through dusty clouds to [see stars forming](#), and delivering a more detailed

view of the [atmospheres of planets outside our solar system](#) than ever before. Webb has also captured new views of planets within our solar system, including the [clearest look at Neptune's rings](#) in decades. The Swigert award, which pays tribute to NASA astronaut Jack Swigert for his legacy of [space exploration](#), will recognize the contributions of the team members who designed, developed, and now operate the Webb mission.

"Our vast and dedicated team on the James Webb Space Telescope [mission](#) is already bringing us closer and closer to seeing the earliest, most distant galaxies that shine in our universe," said Sandra Connelly, acting associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters. "Webb is an [international collaboration](#) involving a group of thousands of diverse people that has launched NASA into a new era of world-class science and is revolutionizing our view of the cosmos."

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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