



NASA's Roman Space Telescope to Launch for Rapid Cosmic Scans

Description

The Roman telescope, a key NASA project, has achieved its goals ahead of schedule and within budget. This achievement is significant for the agency and its supporters.

Benford, a key figure in the project, noted the challenges faced throughout its development. The project overcame major interruptions, including the Covid pandemic and two lengthy government shutdowns in the United States. Initially, NASA planned to launch the telescope by May 2027.

The Roman telescope will launch aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket. Following its launch, it will take more than three months to reach its designated position in space. Once there, mission controllers will carefully test the telescope's instruments before commencing scientific observations.

If everything goes smoothly, the first images from the telescope could be released by the end of this year. Benford suggested this might happen around Christmas, providing a celebratory moment for the team.

NASA currently does not have plans for another major space telescope. The agency has proposed the Habitable Worlds Observatory, which aims to search for signs of life on exoplanets. However, the earliest this mission could launch is the 2040s.

The significance of the Roman telescope's launch is particularly profound for Goddard's workforce, many of whom have experience with the Hubble and Webb telescopes. Mark Melton, a mission systems engineer, expressed his excitement, saying that he has dedicated half his career to this project and expects to be emotional when the telescope is finally deployed. It represents the transition from concept to reality for the team.

Vocabulary List:

1. **telescope** //ˈteləskoʊ// (noun): instrument that makes distant objects appear closer
2. **budget** //ˈbʌdʒɪt// (noun): plan for how much money is available
3. **significant** //sɪgˈnɪfɪkənt// (adjective): large or important; has a big effect
4. **pandemic** //pænˈdɛmɪk// (noun): a disease outbreak that spreads across many places
5. **designated** //ˈdɛzɪgˌneɪtɪd// (adjective): chosen for a particular purpose or position
6. **deployed** //dɪˈplɔɪd// (verb): sent out or put into use

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What is the primary purpose of the Roman telescope?
 - Option: To observe exoplanets
 - Option: To replace Hubble
 - Option: To conduct scientific observations
 - Option: To provide communication
2. When is the Roman telescope expected to launch?
 - Option: May 2025
 - Option: May 2027
 - Option: May 2030
 - Option: May 2040
3. Which rocket will launch the Roman telescope?
 - Option: Atlas V
 - Option: SpaceX Falcon Heavy
 - Option: Delta IV
 - Option: Arianespace
4. How long will it take for the Roman telescope to reach its position in space?
 - Option: One month
 - Option: Three months
 - Option: Six months
 - Option: One year
5. Who is the key figure noted in the project for overcoming challenges?
 - Option: Mark Melton
 - Option: Benford
 - Option: NASA Administrator
 - Option: Elon Musk
6. What major challenge did the project face during its development?
 - Option: Budget cuts
 - Option: Engine failure
 - Option: Covid pandemic
 - Option: Team disagreements



True-False

7. The Roman telescope's launch is planned for May 2025.
8. NASA currently has plans for another major space telescope beyond the Roman telescope.
9. Benford mentioned that the project faced no interruptions.
10. The first images from the Roman telescope are expected to be released at Christmas.
11. Mark Melton has dedicated half his career to the Roman telescope project.
12. The earliest proposed mission after the Roman telescope is the Habitable Worlds Observatory, potentially launching in the 2030s.

Gap-Fill

13. The Roman telescope has achieved its goals ahead of schedule and _____.
14. NASA planned to launch the telescope by _____ 2027.
15. After launch, it will take more than _____ months to reach its position in space.
16. The earliest launch for the Habitable Worlds Observatory is expected in the _____.
17. The Roman telescope's launch is significant for Goddard's workforce, many of whom have experience with _____ and Webb telescopes.
18. The project overcame major interruptions, including the Covid pandemic and two lengthy government _____ in the United States.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. To conduct scientific observations 2. May 2027 3. SpaceX Falcon Heavy 4. Three months 5. Benford 6. Covid pandemic

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. within budget 14. May 15. three 16. 2040s 17. Hubble 18. shutdowns



CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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