

Laboratory for Atmospheres

Mission: The Laboratory for Atmospheres is dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the atmospheres of the Earth and other planets.

1. INTRODUCTION

A broad and vigorous research program is key to the way the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) explores the frontiers of new knowledge through space-related activities. Scientists at NASA, in collaboration with scientists outside the agency, play a key role in conceiving new space missions, providing mission requirements, and carrying out research to explore the behavior of planetary systems, including, notably, the Earth. NASA scientists also supply outside scientists with technical assistance and scientific data to further investigations not immediately addressed by NASA itself.

The Earth Sciences Directorate (Code 900), based at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, MD, is comprised of the Global Change Data Center (GCDC), the Space Data and Computing Division (SDCD), and four science laboratories. The Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), is located in New York, NY. The other three laboratories, the Laboratory for Terrestrial Physics, the Laboratory for Hydrospheric Processes, and the Laboratory for Atmospheres, are all at GSFC, which is also the lead center for science and management of Earth Science, one of the four NASA Enterprises.

The Laboratory for Atmospheres (Code 910) serves as the focal point of a broad theoretical and experimental research program studying all aspects of the atmospheres of the Earth and other planets, including their structural, dynamical, radiative, and chemical properties.

This report includes a general statement of the purpose and philosophy of the Laboratory for Atmospheres, and of its role within the context of NASA activities overall. It also includes a broad description of research areas, information on human resources, scientific interactions, and outreach activities with the outside community, and the major accomplishments achieved by Laboratory investigators in calendar year 1997.

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