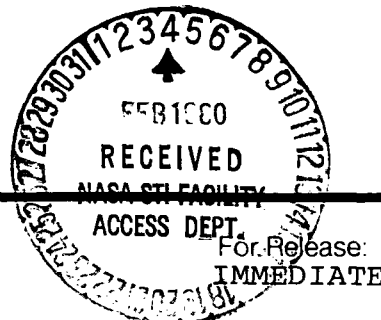


# NASA News

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## NASA TO PURCHASE SPACELAB FROM EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has signed a \$183,960,000 contract calling for manufacture and delivery in 1984 of a second Spacelab by the European Space Agency.

The first Spacelab, a reusable spaceborne scientific laboratory, already is being designed and built in Europe for delivery in time to be aboard an early operational flight of the U.S. Space Shuttle.

Funding for development of the Spacelab concept and manufacture of the first flight unit is provided by European Space Agency member nations and is estimated to exceed \$850 million.

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In return for the contribution by the European Space Agency of the first flight unit, NASA agreed to procure from the European agency a second flight unit and others if needed in the future.

The second Spacelab, like the first, will be built by the ERNO industrial facility in Bremen, Germany, prime contractor to the European Space Agency.

At least 26 subcontractors, in the European Space Agency member nations of Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria and Denmark, as well as in the United States, are expected to be involved in producing components and subassemblies of the second Spacelab.

Spacelab is to be a major element of the NASA Space Transportation System being developed to transport people and material economically and routinely between the ground and Earth orbit. Spacelab will be transported aboard the NASA Space Shuttle orbiter for Earth-orbital missions lasting 7 to 30 days. It will remain attached to the orbiter throughout each mission.

Spacelab will have facilities and equipment similar to laboratories on Earth but adapted for zero gravity.

In any of several configurations to meet specific experiment requirements, it will provide a shirt-sleeve environment, like that in a passenger airliner, for scientific and technical experimenters, both male and female. One to four payload specialists can be accommodated on each flight. They will eat and sleep in the orbiter.

On return to Earth, Spacelab will be removed from the orbiter and outfitted for its next flight assignment.

The Spacelab program lays a basis for greatly expanded international space participation. NASA and the European Space Agency are making known the benefits and future availability of Spacelab to potential users in the international community.

NASA's responsibilities for technical support of the European Space Agency in its development of the Spacelab are directed by the Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala.

Operation of Spacelab will be a United States responsibility with the NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, in charge of flight operations and the NASA Kennedy Space Center, Fla., responsible for integration of Spacelab and Space Shuttle and for the launching.