

Astrophysics in the Next Decade

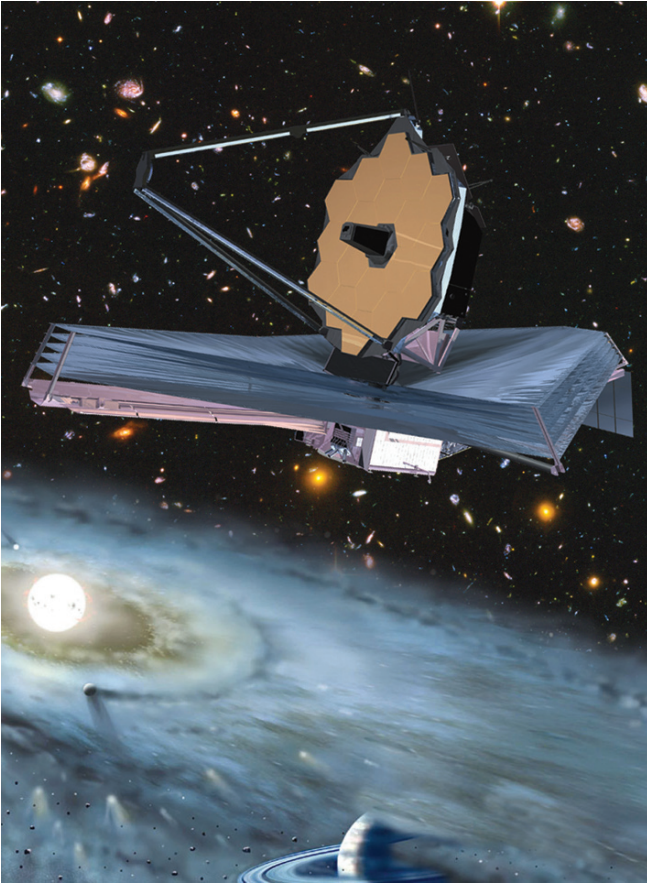
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Astrophysics in the Next Decade

The James Webb Space Telescope
and Concurrent Facilities

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Preface

The conference that eventually became *Astrophysics in the Next Decade: JWST and Concurrent Facilities* was originally proposed by Matthew Greenhouse in 2006. He argued that the astronomical community would be well served by a meeting (and proceedings) that compiled in one place the breadth of scientific and technical information available for the James Webb Space Telescope. As planning for the meeting evolved, several individuals urged that the conference be broadened to include other major astronomical missions of the coming decade. The conference was held September 24–27, 2007 at the Marriott Starr Pass in Tucson, Arizona, and was attended by over 200 astronomers from around the world. The facilities were outstanding and the Sonoran Desert was stunning in early autumn.

Under the general guidance of the local organizers, the Science Organizing Committee selected topics and arranged for speakers to address the key goals of the astronomical community in the next decade. While the conference emphasized astronomical observations from the visible to the sub-millimeter, several sessions dealt with key science goals enabled by dramatic new capabilities in other bands, particularly when these goals were complementary to those of Webb observers. The breadth of the final program and these proceedings underscore the importance of the Webb mission to almost all areas of modern astrophysics research.

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