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FUNDING FOR "IMP" SPACE VEHICLE INCREASED TO \$876,046 BY NASA-GODDARD

National Aeronautics and Space Administration has increased contract funding for an Earth-orbiting cosmic ray experiment to a total of \$876,046, The Southwest Center for Advanced Studies announced today.

The experiment is one of several carried on Interplanetary Monitoring Platform (IMP) vehicles, launched from the Western Test Range near Lompoc, Calif.

Second of the IMP launches is scheduled for late spring or early summer. An earlier launch was made May 24, 1967. IMP flights are in highly eccentric orbits, carrying experiments in and out of the Earth's magnetic field. The earlier IMP travels 131,000 miles from Earth at its farthest point (apogee), and within 155 miles of the surface at its nearest point (perigee).

Asst. Prof. Ricardo A. R. Palmeira is the SCAS' principal investigator in the IMP program. Dr. Frank R. Allum, Research Associate in the Atmospheric and Space Sciences division, is also an investigator.

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center is the program agency.