

## News Release

**GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST**

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 RELEASE SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1966, AND THEREAFTER



Al Mitchell  
 Director of Information

PROF. FRANCIS S. JOHNSON, HEAD OF CENTER'S EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCES LABORATORY,  
 WILL RECEIVE SPACE SCIENCE AWARD FOR 1966 FROM AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS

DALLAS --

Prof. Francis S. Johnson, head of the Earth and Planetary Sciences Laboratory at the  
 of Dallas  
 Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, will receive the Space Science Award for 1966  
 from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Presentation will be made Tuesday, January 25, at the Honors Convocation of the AIAA's  
 Third Aerospace Sciences meeting. The convocation will be held at Hotel Statler-Hilton  
 in New York City.

Professor Johnson will receive the award certificate and its honorarium of \$1,000 at  
 the New York meeting. His selection was "for outstanding contributions to knowledge of the  
 solar constant ultraviolet spectrum, the geocorona, and the existence and nature of atmos-  
 pheric gravity waves," said Howard S. Seifert, chairman of the AIAA Honors and Awards  
 Committee, in a preliminary letter announcement.

Professor Johnson has headed the Earth and Planetary Sciences Laboratory, a major  
 fundamental research area at the Graduate Research Center, since September 1, 1964. He came  
 to the Center in 1962, to direct the Atmospheric and Space Sciences Division of the  
 laboratory, as one of the first faculty arrivals. The Graduate Research Center, a non-profit  
 fundamental research and post-doctoral education institution, began operations in April,  
 a present  
 1962. With/total faculty and staff of more than 300, it has since expanded into biological  
 and materials research fields.

Professor Johnson is a 1940 graduate of the University of Alberta, in physics. He

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PROF. FRANCIS S. JOHNSON/AIAA AWARD -2-

received the master's degree in physics/ and meteorology at the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1942, and returned there to complete doctoral study in meteorology in 1958.

He was a weather officer, U. S. Air Force, during World War II. In 1944-45, he was senior forecaster for the Mediterranean Allied Air Force.

From 1946 to 1955, Professor Johnson headed the Optics Division, High Altitude Research Section, Naval Research Laboratory. Major divisional programs included solar ultraviolet spectroscopy in rocket vehicles and laboratory investigations in vacuum ultraviolet. The division also developed an image motion compensation system for aerial cameras.

From 1955 to 1962, Professor Johnson was research scientist and manager at the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company. He became manager of space physics research there in 1959.

He has served as consultant and committee member in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Sciences Steering Committee's panels on ionospheric physics and planetary atmospheres. For the National Science Foundation, he is a member of the advisory panel for atmospheric sciences, the panel on weather and climate control, and the committee on rocket-satellite research; also, the advisory panel to Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, and previously on subcommittees of the Geophysics Research Board and the Committee on Education in the Atmospheric Sciences.

In the AIAA, Professor Johnson is a member of the technical committee on Space and Atmospheric Physics.

Serving in 1964-67 appointments, he is chairman of USA Commission IV, International Scientific Radio Union (URSI), and vice-chairman, Section of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy, American Geophysical Union.

The Space Science Award was founded by the American Rocket Society, predecessor of the AIAA, and Bell Aerosystems Co., in 1961. Previous winners are Prof. John R. Winkler, University of Minnesota physicist, 1962; Dr. Herbert Friedman, Naval Research Laboratory, 1964; and Prof. Eugene Parker, University of Chicago theoretical physicist who is credited with coining the term "solar wind" as a descriptive name for the Sun's energetic plasma radiation. No award was made in 1963.

--14/17--a1 mitchell--1-4-66--