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THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM

Ever since Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite, was orbited on January 31, 1958, the nation has been expanding its space program. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) conducts the peaceful, scientific exploration of space with both manned and unmanned vehicles. Hundreds of scientists and many thousands of engineers, technicians, and other workers in NASA, industry, and universities are cooperating in the varied space programs. The United States collaborates with 55 other countries in projects such as tracking satellites, training research workers, and collecting and distributing scientific data.

Electronics technicians at a NASA station in Virginia check equipment which commands and collects data from Tiros weather satellites. This station and another in California receive all the information on infrared data and cloud-cover photographs as the satellites pass over the United States coasts. A total of 3 of the 285-pound (128-kilogram) satellites are planned.

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