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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 co-operating 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.

NASA technicians check out a 440-pound (200-kilogram) Orbiting Solar Observatory at Cape Canaveral, Florida. The first such satellite was launched March 7, 1962, and has radioed back valuable data about the sun. About nine more satellites will be launched to investigate solar radiations, dust particles in space, and effects of thermal radiation on spacecraft surface materials.

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