

STAR GAZER -- The Circumstellar Imaging Telescope, designed to detect C18S11F2  
extra-solar planetary systems around nearby stars and to image faint material  
near bright astronomical objects, is shown attached to a proposed space  
station. A 1.5-meter (59-inch) low-scattered-light telescope, it uses a  
special optical device, called a coronagraph, to block direct light from  
nearby stars. These optics in combination with a super-smooth mirror will  
reduce glare from bright stars in order to search for faint material such as  
discs of debris or even planets orbiting an observed star. The Telescope  
needs to be above Earth's atmosphere and could be flown as part of the U.S.  
Space Station assembly program in the mid-1990s. The concept is currently  
being developed and studied at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena,  
California.

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