



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
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DEEP SPACE NETWORK STATION AT ROBLEDO DE CHAVELA (MADRID), SPAIN --
The Madrid station of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Deep Space Network is located at Robledo de Chavela, 37 miles west of the capital of Spain in the heart of the Guadarrama Mountains. Constructed on a rocky plain rimmed by wooded hills, the towering antenna is completely shielded from electrical interferences, yet can track spacecraft from horizon to horizon and outward to distances beyond the moon to the planets. The parabolic or "dish" type antenna is 85 feet in diameter. When pointed directly overhead it stands 120 feet high. Overall weight is more than 400 tons. The Madrid station began operation in July, 1965, to support Mariner IV on its flyby of Mars July 14. The station, together with its sister station at Johannesburg, South Africa, received the first photographs sent by television from Mariner IV after passing the red planet. Deep Space Network stations are established in pairs at approximately 120° or one-third of the earth's circumference apart. Besides the pair in Spain/South Africa, the others are the two at Goldstone, California, and at Woomera and Canberra, Australia.

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