

## AMERICA ACCELERATES SPACE PROGRAMS

In the past five years the United States has successfully launched more than 125 satellites and deep-space probes, plus hundreds of rockets of varying sizes and uses. In early 1963, more than 50 American spacecraft were still in orbit around the earth or the sun. The oldest manmade object in space is Explorer I, launched January 31, 1958. Many new and larger satellites, containing complex instruments, will be launched during 1963 and in the coming years. The one-man Mercury spacecraft will be replaced by the two-man Gemini craft. Nimbus weather satellites will follow the trail blazed by six successful Tiros craft. Scientists will gather great amounts of valuable data about the universe from orbiting observatories equipped to measure space phenomena.

A masked welder works on the hatch of a cold chamber in which spacecraft can be tested in a vacuum at -320 degrees F. (-194 degrees C.) to simulate conditions at an altitude of 200 miles (320 kilometers). The airtight chamber is 21 feet (6.3 meters) long and 11 feet (3.3 meters) in diameter. Republic Aviation installed the chamber in a new research and development laboratory.

(Photo 63-1873. Accompanies packet F-63-87.)



SCIENCE - ASTRONAUTICS (RESEARCH)