

FORECAST OF UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES -- OCTOBER 2011

105 Years Ago -- 1906

October 2: Space popularizer and science writer Willy Ley. Born, Berlin, Germany.

70 Years Ago -- 1941

October 6: Redstone Arsenal activated, Huntsville, AL.

65 Years Ago -- 1946

October 24: First motion pictures taken of Earth from a V2 rocket.

50 Years Ago -- 1961

October 11: X-15 flown to more than 40 miles into space, 217,000 feet, and a speed of 3,647 miles per hour, pilot was Major Robert White, Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), CA.

October 13: Midas 4 launched by an Atlas. Also carried Project West Ford payload, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

October 25: Mississippi Test Facility established in Hancock County, Miss. to test the Saturn launch vehicles. Renamed Stennis Space Center after Mississippi Senator John Stennis in May 1988.

October 27: Saturn I (SA-1) suborbital flight. Launched to an altitude of 84.8 miles, 214.7 miles downrange, 10:06 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. First test of the newly developed Saturn booster.

45 Years Ago -- 1966

October 2: ESSA 3 launched by Thor Delta, 6:39 a.m., EDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

October 22: Luna 12 (Lunik 12) launch (USSR Moon Orbiter) launched by Modified SS-6 (Sapwood) or Molniya.

October 26: Atlas Centaur 9 launched, 6:12 a.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. It carried a Surveyor model that was injected into simulated lunar transfer orbit.

October 26: Intelsat 2 F-1 (Intelsat II-A) launched by a Delta, 6:05 p.m., EST, Cape Canaveral, Fla. A COMSAT Corporation commercial communications satellite.

40 Years Ago -- 1971

October 21 : ITOS-B launched by a Thor Delta, 4:32 a.m., PDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA. Launch vehicle failure.

October 28: Prospero launched, (Great Britain's first) Woomera Test Range, Australia. Launch vehicle a UK Black Arrow.

35 Years Ago -- 1976

October 12: First flight of Sikorsky S-72 Rotor Systems Research Aircraft (RSRA), a joint NASA/Army project.

October 14: Marisat 3 launched by a Delta, 16:44 p.m., EDT, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

October 14: Soyuz 23 launched, Baikonur, USSR. Cosmonauts: Vyacheslav D. Zudov and Valeri I. Rozhdesvensky. Failed to dock with Salyut-5.

30 Years Ago -- 1981

October 6: SME (Solar Mesosphere Explorer) launched by Delta, 4:27 a.m., PDT, Vandenberg AFB, CA. (UOSAT) (Oscar 9) dual payload with SME.

October 30: Venera 13 Launch (USSR Venus Lander/Flyby Mission) by Proton K from Baikonur.

25 Years Ago – 1986

October 15: NASA launched the Black Brant sounding rocket to analyze the ionosphere during a solar mission. The rocket completed a second solar mission on October 22.

20 Years Ago -- 1991

October 29: Galileo probe flyby of Asteroid Gaspra.

15 Years Ago -- 1996

October 24: Molniya-3-48 communications satellite launched by Molniya-M from Plesetsk, Russia at 11:37:00 UTC, which used a three-channel repeater to support domestic and international communication.

10 Years Ago – 2001

October 21: Soyuz TM-33 launched. The second “taxi” flight to the International Space Station (ISS) by a Soyuz-U rocket from Baikonur at 08:59 UTC. It carried two Russian and one French astronaut: Victor M. Afanasyez, Konstantin M. Kozeev, and Claudie Haigneré, bringing a “fresh” Soyuz crew to the ISS. It docked with the ISS at 10:00 UTC on October 23. This new crew spent eight days on the ISS, and returned on the older Soyuz TM-32 at 03:59 UTC on October 31.

October 24: Mars Odyssey reached Mars.

5 Years Ago – 2006

October 26: The Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory consisting of STEREO-A and STEREO-B, two identical heliospheric craft, were launched by a Delta 2 rocket from Cape Canaveral at 8:52 pm EDT. STEREO-A orbits the Sun ahead of the Earth, and STEREO-B orbits behind the Earth in order to image the Sun and its emissions stereographically. The spacecraft predict whether a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) is heading toward the Earth.