

The James Webb Space Telescope

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The James Webb Space Telescope is a large 6.5 meter aperture cryogenic space telescope designed to undertake a range of key science observations. Its driving requirements are presented by the problem of detecting the earliest galaxies. We will review the key science goals of JWST and discuss the design of the telescope in this context. We will highlight the key elements of JWST's architecture and the capabilities of its instrument complement and contrast these capabilities with the next generation of ground-based telescopes. The current status of the telescope, together with recent achievements are reviewed.