

## Announcement

---

### A new opportunity for academic space experiments

NASA's Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) will offer scientists a new opportunity for space research. The LDEF is a large passive unmanned structure on which over 70 separate self-contained experiment packages will be mounted. It will be put into orbit around the earth for a number of months by the Space Shuttle Transportation System and then brought back to earth, when the experiments will be returned to their owners for analysis. The LDEF offers prolonged exposure to the conditions at its orbital altitude of 300 nautical miles: weightlessness, extreme vacuum and high particle and radiation fluxes. A unique feature is the return of the materials and instruments at the end of the mission.

The Universities Space Research Association (USRA) has been given the task of seeking worthwhile experiments for the LDEF in all fields of science and technology, particularly from academic scientists. NASA will provide preflight acceptance testing, orbital flight and return for experiments endorsed by USRA. Experimenters will need to secure research funding — USRA will assist in this and in all phases of experiment development and management, where necessary. Those interested should write to:

USRA  
Dr. M. H. Davis,  
P.O. Box 3006,  
Boulder,  
Colo. 80307,  
U.S.A.