



ADLER PLANETARIUM
& ASTRONOMY MUSEUM

January 14, 2004

Contact:
Matt Glover
(312)322-0524

Statement from the Adler Planetarium In response to President Bush's Challenge for a Manned Moon Station and Human Travel to Mars

In the spirit of scientific exploration, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum enthusiastically endorses President Bush's challenge to establish a scientific outpost on our Moon and, eventually, human travel to Mars.

The Apollo missions to the Moon returned a tantalizing sampling of scientific data, increasing the need for further exploration in the search to better understand the Moon's origins and history. Our nearest celestial neighbor remains an ideal target for exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and a logical base for future space missions.

A human mission to Mars, to learn more about the planet most like ours, helps us understand who we are and where we live. Mars has likely undergone global climate changes and a greater understanding of that change will lead to better informed decisions about Earth. While robotic probes, such as the current Mars Rovers yield great findings and will continue to play a role in space exploration, there is no substitute for the unique capabilities of a human scientist on the surface of Mars.

For one hundred years, the United States has been the leader in the exploration of our Universe, extending the frontiers of our knowledge. Investments in these fields are significant, but the returns to our economic growth, technological innovation and national pride are even greater. This challenging goal by the President should inspire today's youth to become actively involved in science, technology, engineering and math pursuits leading to careers in America's space program and those that further America's technological reach.

A single mission in space can support more than 150 distinct scientific experiments, yielding new ideas about cancer, crop yields, dust storms, earthquake-resistant buildings, fire suppression techniques and the water supply. Challenging humanity to shape its future in space far beyond low-Earth orbit, to the Moon and then on to Mars will help us better understand our most pressing Earthly issues, including AIDS, global warming and overpopulation.

Since its founding in 1930, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum has been dedicated to understanding the Universe and our place in it. We applaud the President's challenge to the nation and its scientists, and we look forward to being a partner in this exciting new endeavor, serving as a space science resource for the people of Chicago and visitors from around the world.

**Adler Planetarium
& Astronomy Museum**
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
312-922-STAR