

IAF SPACE OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM (B6)  
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM (IPB)

Author: Mr. Alan Johns  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (USRA), United States, alan.johns@nasa.gov

AN UNEXPECTED CHALLENGE FOR THE JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE

**Abstract**

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) launched on December 25, 2021 and is expected to make discoveries that will enhance our understanding of the universe. But in the months preceding launch, JWST was faced not with a technical challenge, but a biological one—the COVID pandemic. Testing between the Ground Segment and the Observatory, the formal rehearsal campaign and mission operations planning all had to be paused and replanned. Changes to processes, facilities, systems and communications were necessary to ensure the protection of mission operations personnel. This paper will describe the baseline concepts for testing, rehearsals and mission operations, the adjustments that were made to those concepts and which modifications were impactful and which wound up proving beneficial to mission success.