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AW&ST January 12, 2004 Contents Volume 160 Number 2



Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer: New take on Voyager will cruise above the weather, but not above risks.

Scientists gain clues to apparent disappearance of spiral galaxies.

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Jon Karkow (left) shows the small canopy of the Virgin Atlantic Airways GlobalFlyer to Senior Engineering Editor Michael A. Dornheim. Karkow is the Scaled Composites project engineer in charge of the around-the-world aircraft, which was rolled out from the company's Mojave, Calif., facility on Jan. 8 (see p. 50).

AROUT THE COVE

The first color Panoramic Camera image taken by NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Spirit from the surface of Mars shows the area directly ahead of the vehicle where it is expected to roll for science operations late this week (see p. 24). This NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory image, with 12 million pixels, is about four times more detailed than what was possible during the 1997 Pathfinder mission. The new JPL/Cornell University dual-eyed camera will enable high-resolution close-up imaging as well as telescopic views of distant terrain.



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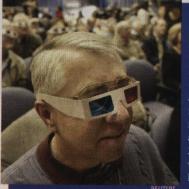
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BEHIND THE SCENES



Senior Editor Craig Covault wears 3D glasses to view stereo imagery from the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., where he and Senior Engineering Editor Michael A. Dornheim are reporting on the mission (see pp. 24-28). In his 32 years at Aviation Week & Space Technology, Covault has covered Russian Mars missions and the U.S. Viking Mars lander development at the NASA Langley Research Center. Covault also reported on U. S. planetary mission planning for 20 years from Washington. Part of that work included writing about comet mission options, expertise that he applied to JPL Stardust comet intercept coverage.