

# NASA plans to start \$8 billion space station by

'93

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Pressing on with plans to exploit the high frontier, NASA unveiled preliminary designs Wednesday for an \$8 billion space station the size of a football field that will give America a permanent manned presence in space.

John Hodge, acting associate administrator for the project, told a news conference Wednesday that 14 shuttle flights will be required to build the international station over three years, beginning in early 1993.

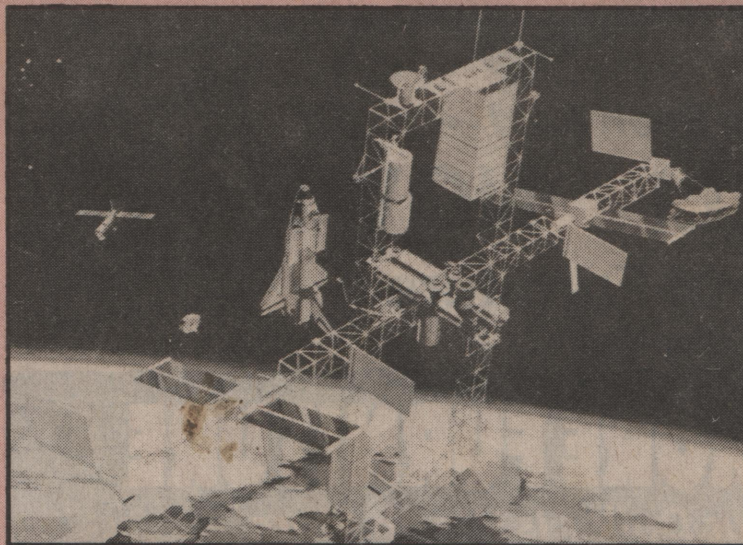
The research station will feature four laboratory modules: two modules supplied by the United States, each 44.5 feet long and 13.8 feet wide, and two smaller modules built by the European Space Agency and Japan. Canada will supply a mobile crane that can be used for repairs and construction.

By the ninth shuttle construction mission in 1994, permanent manned operations could begin, satisfying a timetable set by President Reagan two years ago. Orbiting 290 miles up, eight scientists will be able to work aboard the station for up to nine months at a time before being relieved.

“Our contractors are ready to move out; the NASA team is ready to move out; the international people are ready,” Hodge said. “So we are really very much prepared to go forward.”

Plans call for hardware development to begin in October with

• Please turn to A-2.



United Press International

Scientists would live and work in the cylinders shown in the middle of the proposed space station.