



1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,710

Narrator: Taking a break from its science mission flights,

2
00:00:04,730 --> 00:00:08,370

the Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy or SOFIA

3
00:00:08,390 --> 00:00:14,300

came to NASA Ames Research Center to offer tours to employees and VIP's alike.

4
00:00:14,320 --> 00:00:19,040

The observatory consists of a 100-inch or 2.5-meter diameter telescope

5
00:00:19,060 --> 00:00:23,710

mounted inside a highly modified Boeing 747SP aircraft

6
00:00:23,730 --> 00:00:28,270

that can fly at altitudes up to 41,000 feet above sea level.

7
00:00:28,290 --> 00:00:32,570

For two days, the aircraft was opened up so that dignitaries, members of the media,

8
00:00:32,590 --> 00:00:38,030

NASA employees and the general public could take self-guided tours of the aircraft.

9
00:00:38,050 --> 00:00:42,770

To honor the occasion Mr. Roderick Bersamina, a member of US Congresswoman

10
00:00:42,790 --> 00:00:46,790

Anna Eschoo's staff, presented a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol

11
00:00:46,810 --> 00:00:53,350

in recognition of SOFIA to Ames Director Pete Worden and Dryden Deputy Director Pat Stoliker.

12
00:00:53,370 --> 00:00:57,240

Another VIP in attendance was German Consul-General Peter Rothen

13
00:00:57,260 --> 00:00:59,620

from the San Francisco consulate.

14

00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:04,920

In addition, a tweet-up was held as a special event for a select group of about 50 people.

15

00:01:04,940 --> 00:01:08,860

These tweeps, or people who frequently use Twitter, were given the opportunity

16

00:01:08,880 --> 00:01:12,930

to hear presentations from SOFIA researchers, tour NASA Ames facilities

17

00:01:12,950 --> 00:01:16,210

and discover the aircraft in person.

18

00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:20,640

The primary goal of the SOFIA program is to use infrared observations of the universe

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00:01:20,660 --> 00:01:25,510

to further scientific knowledge in the field of astronomy and astrophysics.