



Grounding  
Harness

Test  
Harness

CAM

secondary  
structure

Cover  
Corner Posts  
SWT

Field Stop  
Assembly

ASTRIUM

ASTRIUM

Euronuclear Raf  
ASTRIUM



SPANNER

ASTRIUM

1

00:00:12,350 --> 00:00:17,800

Opening the door to let the light in is a lot like how NIRSPEC does its job.

2

00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:23,880

Let's go inside the ASTRIUM clean room in Ottobrunn, Germany to find out how.

3

00:00:23,880 --> 00:00:27,189

So, Ralf, does NIRSPEC involve the opening of doors?

4

00:00:27,189 --> 00:00:32,349

Ralf Ehrenwinkler/NIRSPEC I&T Manager: That's correct. But our doors are very small. If you have a look here, you see

5

00:00:32,349 --> 00:00:37,920

thousands of doors in this array. And it's called micro shutters and if the doors are

6

00:00:37,920 --> 00:00:42,600

open, you can have a look to the universe. Is there any way we can actually see the

7

00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:48,600

micro shutter array in NIRSPEC? Yes for that we have to go into the cleanroom.

8

00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:55,860

Our arrays on NIRSPEC... we have four of them. They're here, within this black arc. Ok, so there's four of the

9

00:00:55,860 --> 00:01:01,110

So you see two by two. Is that the spectrometer that it's in? This is the entrance of

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00:01:01,110 --> 00:01:05,019

the spectrometer. My eyesight's pretty good but it's not good enough to see

11

00:01:05,019 --> 00:01:09,049

thousands of little doors or thousands  
of little micro shutters. How can I get a better look?

12

00:01:09,049 --> 00:01:15,100

If you really want to know how to  
know how these doors are working, you should have to go to

13

00:01:15,100 --> 00:01:22,380

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center at Maryland. Sounds good. Thank you so much for showing  
us the micro shutters in NIRSPEC. You're welcome.

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00:01:22,380 --> 00:01:26,670

So Harvey, Ralf from Astrium  
just sent us from across the pond to

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00:01:26,670 --> 00:01:31,399

find out more about how micro shutters work, but first I have a question. Why do we

16

00:01:31,399 --> 00:01:35,780

need micro shutters on NIRSPEC? Harvey Moseley/Astrophysicist, NASA Goddard: Well, in  
order to tell you about that I need to

17

00:01:35,780 --> 00:01:41,350

remind you the James Webb is supposed to  
study the universe at a time when the

18

00:01:41,350 --> 00:01:46,259

first galaxies were forming. In order to  
really tell if they are citizens of this

19

00:01:46,259 --> 00:01:51,369

very early phase of the universe we need  
to do a spectroscopic study of those

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00:01:51,369 --> 00:01:56,679

galaxies. They'll be very very faint so  
it's going to take us a very long time

21

00:01:56,679 --> 00:02:01,450

to do those measurements... and after looking at the picture of the sky, we

22

00:02:01,450 --> 00:02:05,700

identify where these objects are and we just open the shutters on each of these

23

00:02:05,700 --> 00:02:12,490

locations. So basically, it isolates parts of the universe for you right? Exactly.

24

00:02:12,490 --> 00:02:17,860

It let's observe say a hundred objects at one time rather than just one at a time,

25

00:02:18,420 --> 00:02:24,700

so it makes JWST a hundred times as effective to explore the early universe.

26

00:02:25,200 --> 00:02:26,640

Can I take a look?

27

00:02:26,640 --> 00:02:36,709

Sure. Okay. So you're seeing the micro shutters there. The array has two hundred and

28

00:02:36,709 --> 00:02:42,230

fifty thousand shutters in it. You're seeing only a tiny fraction of what's on there.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:47,849

Now we can move in and see a single door in greater detail the height

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00:02:47,849 --> 00:02:54,019

of that door is only about twice the diameter of a hair. What are the smaller

31

00:02:54,019 --> 00:03:00,100

rectangles on the shutter? These are

stripes of magnetic material to allow

32  
00:03:00,100 --> 00:03:05,780  
the magnet to open the shutter. Come on  
in, Mary. In here, we have a micro shutter array

33  
00:03:05,900 --> 00:03:12,330  
set up where we can open it with a  
magnet so you can see how the little

34  
00:03:12,330 --> 00:03:18,140  
shutters work. As we slide the magnet  
across here it's open and you can see

35  
00:03:18,140 --> 00:03:23,959  
the NASA logo behind it and pull it back  
and it's closed. When we combine that

36  
00:03:23,959 --> 00:03:25,810  
with our electronics

37  
00:03:25,810 --> 00:03:31,290  
we can actually open any single shutter  
in the entire array. Well, Harvey, thank you so much

38  
00:03:31,290 --> 00:03:35,500  
for helping us understand how micro shutters work on NIRSPEC. Well thank you

39  
00:03:35,500 --> 00:03:40,910  
very much opportunity to show them off.  
While this new technology was developed

40  
00:03:40,910 --> 00:03:45,200  
specifically for Webb, the use of  
micro shutters is being planned for