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NASA LANGLEY

## NASA Langley funding could increase by 10 percent

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HAMPTON

NASA Langley Research Center would receive a 10 percent boost in funding under a preliminary NASA budget released Thursday.

The plan, which would increase spending at the Hampton facility from \$700 million to \$770 million, includes a new slate of space technology, earth science and aeronautics programs. It comes after President Barack Obama overhauled NASA's priorities in February by calling for an end to the agency's human spaceflight program.

Steve Jurczyk, Langley's deputy center director, stressed that funding will fluctuate as NASA divides portions of the new programs among the agency's 10 centers. For now, though, he said Thursday's numbers represent a "fairly healthy top-of-the-line budget increase."

Langley's portion represents 4 percent of NASA's overall budget of \$19 billion. Civil service jobs at Langley would remain steady at 1,946, Jurczyk said.

Langley will take a larger role in space technology development, directing NASA's "Game Changing Technology Development" program. The program, the middle of a three-tiered system, focuses on research and development. It is slated to receive \$1.5 billion during the next five years.

Plans call for the revival of SAGE III, an ozone-monitoring system that was shelved in 2000. NASA contractors will launch the device into space — in either 2013 or 2014 — where it will be attached to the International Space Station.

NASA brass committed to Climate Absolute Radiance and Refractivity Observatory, a climate change monitoring program known as CLARREO, Jurczyk said. Set to launch in 2017, CLARREO is one of 17 projects recommended in a 2007 National Research Council study. It is expected to cost at least \$800 million and employ up to 150 people.

Langley is slated to receive a modest boost in aeronautics, from \$160 million to \$170 million, Jurczyk said. It is tasked with, among other things, developing more fuel-efficient airplanes.

Congress, meanwhile, continues to debate Obama's proposal. Lawmakers in states poised to lose jobs under his plan — Florida, Texas and Alabama — argue that NASA should continue its human spaceflight program.

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### **Inside the budget**

10Percent increase in spending at the Hampton site from \$700 million to \$770 million

1,946Civil service jobs at Langley remain on the budget

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