



York Society of Engineers

7:30 pm. Thursday 05 February 2026

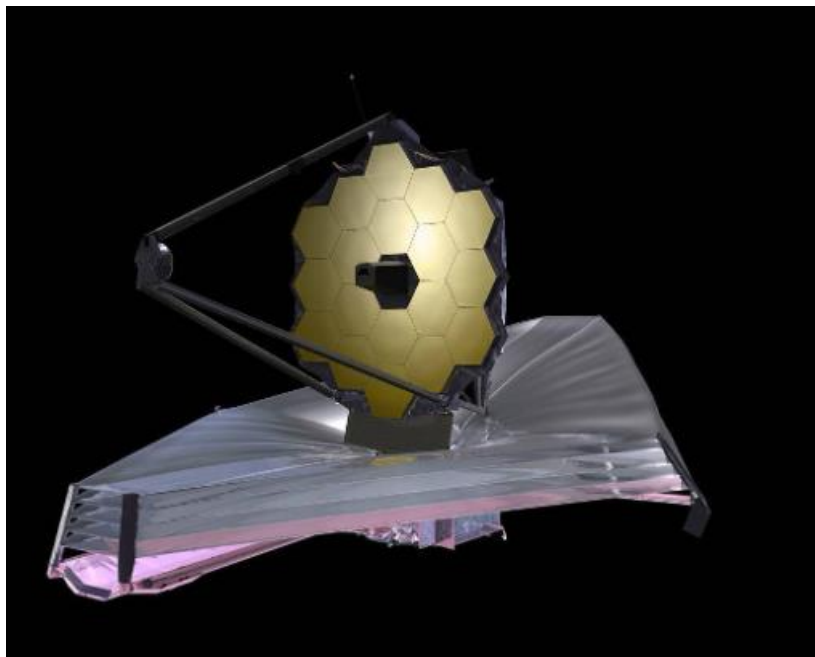
Live Lecture

**Room P/L/001, Physics/Electronics Building, Campus West,
University of York**

Engineering the James Webb Space Telescope

by

Professor Emeritus Andy Marvin



NASA Image

The James Webb Space Telescope produces stunning images of the universe.

Often ignored are the engineering challenges overcome in the construction and operation of the telescope.

As an engineer, Professor Andy Marvin finds these just as interesting and amazing as the images.

Let him share some of his enthusiasm.

In this talk he will address the linked engineering issues of:

Why does it observe at infra-red wavelengths?

Where is the telescope and why is it there?

Why is the heat shield built the way it is?

How are the images formed by the mirror?

Why is its segmented mirror built the way it is?

**Please note, this lecture will be a live talk in Room P/L/001,
Physics/Electronics Building, Campus West, University of York.**

Wearing of masks is encouraged (but not mandatory); taking a lateral flow test prior to the meeting (with negative result) is also recommended. There is plenty of space in the lecture theatre for “social distancing”.

Please see the Covid-19 guidance below from the University of York:

The safety of our audience members and staff is our priority, and the University of York continues to have strict cleaning regimes and enhanced ventilation in place.

Please note that the University of York is promoting a message of protect, respect and be kind in relation to Covid-19 and we therefore politely ask that all attendees consider wearing a face covering whilst moving around indoors, washing hands regularly and taking a lateral flow test in advance of the event. We also ask that you do not attend if you experience any symptoms that could relate to a Covid-19 infection OR if you are self-isolating. Events staff will wear face coverings (unless exempt) and clear signage will be available to access hand sanitizer and hand-washing facilities.

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Membership brings several benefits; please search “York Society of Engineers” on your browser, or visit our website directly at <https://www.yorksocietyofengineers.org> for more details and an application form.