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## **Lucasfilm Creates Mission Patch Representing International Space Station U.S. National Laboratory Research**

- *Official mission patch represents all 2017 research on the ISS National Lab*
- *Highlights how science is at the root of the Star Wars™ franchise*



**Kennedy Space Center, FL (September 6, 2017)** — The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) today announced the unveiling of its latest mission patch, designed by Lucasfilm, featuring characters and space ships from the *Star Wars*™ franchise. The mission patch represents all payloads intended for the International Space Station (ISS) U.S. National Laboratory in calendar year 2017. CASIS is the organization that oversees research on the ISS U.S. National Laboratory benefitting life on Earth.

“This collaboration connects the scientific promise of the International Space Station to the scientific inspiration of the iconic *Star Wars*™ franchise,” said CASIS President and Executive Director Gregory H. Johnson. Thus far in 2017, the ISS National Laboratory has seen well over 100 experiments launch to the space station ranging from life and physical sciences, Earth observation and remote sensing, to technology development and education payloads.

Working with Fortune 500 companies, innovative startups, esteemed academic institutions, other government agencies and non-profit organizations, the ISS National Laboratory is enabling a new era

of space-based research and through this partnership with Lucasfilm, will better inform the public on how the station is benefitting our planet.

Lucasfilm recently announced “*Science and Star Wars*,” a 10-episode web series designed in collaboration with IBM to engage the public on the science associated with the *Star Wars* universe. Coming soon, an episode from this series will be dedicated towards space ships, and the ISS will be prominently featured as it represents our only orbiting laboratory manned by humans. The episode will include a former astronaut who has flown on the ISS, and also highlight the types of research and facilities that are associated with the space station.

The patch has the outward shape of the famed space ship - the *Millennium Falcon*, and features the ISS, droids *BB-8*, *K-2SO*, and *Chopper*, as well as the *Death Star*. The patch was developed by Academy Award-winning designer, Doug Chiang, who is responsible for overseeing concept artistry and production design for films in the *Star Wars* series, including the latest release; *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, in theaters December 15.

“One of the reasons George Lucas created *Star Wars* was to inspire a sense of romance and adventure of space exploration for a new generation of space explorers,” says Lucasfilm’s *Star Wars* Vice President and Executive Creative Director Doug Chiang. “The patch design is meant to evoke this same spirit of wonder when Luke Skywalker looked out to the twin suns of Tatooine. The silhouetted droids and ISS set against a sunset sky with echoes of the *Death Star* and *Millennium Falcon* – two iconic *Star Wars* vehicles that still captivate us - reflect this memorable scene.”

“We are incredibly excited to link the inspiration brought by *Star Wars* to our International Space Station, highlighting research that is happening right now in space,” Johnson added.

To learn more about this collaboration, please watch the making of the mission patch video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TsGOuT9xoA>

To understand the on-orbit capabilities of the ISS National Lab, including research initiatives launched in 2017, visit [www.iss-casis.org/ARK5](http://www.iss-casis.org/ARK5).

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**About CASIS:** The Center for Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) is the non-profit organization selected to manage the ISS National Laboratory with a focus on enabling a new era of space research to improve life on Earth. In this innovative role, CASIS promotes and brokers a diverse range of research in life sciences, physical sciences, remote sensing, technology development, and education.

Since 2011, the ISS National Lab portfolio has included hundreds of novel research projects spanning multiple scientific disciplines, all with the intention of benefitting life on Earth. Working together with NASA, CASIS aims to advance the nation’s leadership in commercial space, pursue groundbreaking science not possible on Earth, and leverage the space station to inspire the next generation.

**About the ISS National Laboratory:** In 2005, Congress designated the U.S. portion of the International Space Station as the nation's newest national laboratory to maximize its use for improving life on Earth, promoting collaboration among diverse users, and advancing STEM education. This unique laboratory environment is available for use by other U.S. government agencies and by academic and private institutions, providing access to the permanent microgravity setting, vantage point in low Earth orbit, and varied environments of space.

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