



# GODDARD NEWS

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## Balloon Program Sets New Endurance Record

A NASA scientific balloon has broken the previous record flight time for a zero pressure balloon by 44 hours. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon was launched on **January 4 from McMurdo, Antarctica** and had a total flight time of **644 hours, terminating January 31**. The balloon carried a Submillimeter Astrophysics experiment (TopHat) for Dr. Edward Cheng, Code 685. The 500-pound TopHat experiment was on the top of the balloon and was a record for weight on the top of the balloon.

This recent campaign marked the second time in two years NASA and the National Scientific Balloon Facility, Palestine, Texas have supported two concurrent long duration balloon missions in Antarctica. The second flight launched Dec. 28, 2000, also was a 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carrying a cosmic ray astrophysics experiment for Drs. John Wefel and Greg Guzik, Louisiana State University, that mission flew for 385 hours.