

Jupiter-bound spacecraft includes UCSD instruments

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The Pioneer F spacecraft, scheduled for launching to the planet Jupiter between February 27 and March 13, will contain a five-instrument scientific package designed and built by a UCSD space-physics group headed by Dr. Carl E. McIlwain, professor of physics.

Dr. R. Walker Fillius, UCSD research physicist and principal investigator for the UCSD project, will explain UCSD's role in this historic flight, and will answer general questions about the Pioneer/Jupiter mission at a news conference, Friday, February 18, 1972, 10:30 a.m. Conference Room A, Bldg. 111 Matthews Campus, UCSD.

For your background, a few significant facts:

- The Pioneer F will be the first man-made object ever to escape the solar system - provided it survives the hazards of the asteroid belt and the dangers of Jupiter's radiation belts.

- This spacecraft will fly faster than any man-made object ever has flown. It will travel an average of half-a-million miles a day during its first week in flight.

- The Pioneer F may eventually - some seven years from launch - transmit data from as far out in space as 1.5 billion miles beyond the sun.

- Radio signals, travelling at 186,000 miles per second, will require 45 minutes to reach Pioneer F from earth, or vice versa, during the spacecraft's fly-by of Jupiter.

This mission and the Pioneer G (in 1973) will be the first missions beyond Mars to the asteroid belt and Jupiter.

Kits containing useful background data on the Pioneer Mission, and describing the trapped-radiation detectors developed by Dr. Fillius, Professor McIlwain and his group, will be available at the conference. Black-and-white glossy photos of Dr. Fillius and the detector, and of the Pioneer F in simulated flight, also will be distributed.

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