



RNASA
 ROTARY NATIONAL AWARD
 FOR SPACE ACHIEVEMENT

For Immediate Release

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**Dr. Christopher Scolese, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Director,
 to receive the 2024 National Space Trophy**



Houston, Texas (January 23, 2024). The Rotary National Award for Space Achievement (RNASA) Foundation has selected Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, to receive the 2024 National Space Trophy. The banquet honoring Dr. Scolese will be held on April 26, 2024 at the Downtown Hyatt Regency in Houston, Texas.

Rodolfo González, president of the RNASA Foundation, said, "The RNASA Foundation is thrilled to host Dr. Scolese as the guest of honor at the 2024 Space Awards Gala. The annual RNASA Gala is organized to recognize outstanding achievements in our field, and we look forward to celebrating Dr. Scolese's contributions to space discovery, exploration and advancement."

"I am honored to receive the National Space Trophy," Dr. Scolese said. "This award is a tribute to the collaborative efforts of the entire space community, and it fuels my commitment to advancing innovation and exploring the limitless potential of space."

Dr. Scolese was nominated for the award by former Johnson Space Center Director Michael Coats. In his nomination letter, Coats wrote, "Dr. Scolese has consistently demonstrated technical brilliance, exemplary administrative skills, and outstanding leadership during a 32-year NASA career, culminating with 7 years as [Goddard Space Flight Center] Director and currently as the director of the NRO."

Sworn in on August 5, 2019, Dr. Scolese is the 19th NRO director and the first to be presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed. Under his leadership, the NRO develops, acquires, launches and operates a vast network of reconnaissance satellites that provides critical national security data to the U.S. Intelligence Community, the U.S. Department of Defense, and America's allies around the world. Dr. Scolese's direction builds on the NRO's legacy of advancing technologies, building key partnerships, and identifying threats around the world.

Dr. Scolese's career began in 1987 at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, where he served as Earth Observing System (EOS) Systems Manager, EOS Terra Project Manager, EOS Program Manager, and Deputy Director of Flight Programs and Projects for Earth Science. In 2001, he was

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assigned to NASA's Washington, D.C., office, where he served in a variety of positions beginning with Deputy Associate Administrator of Space Science. In this role, Dr. Scolese managed the oversight of NASA's Space Science Flight Program, technology development and contract management of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In 2004, he returned to Goddard Space Flight Center as Deputy Director before shifting back to NASA headquarters as Chief Engineer in 2005. In 2007, he was appointed NASA's Associate Administrator, overseeing the agency's programmatic and technical efforts. Between January and July 2009, Dr. Scolese served as NASA's Acting Administrator.

Dr. Scolese returned to Greenbelt, Maryland, in 2012, as Director of Goddard Space Flight Center. While there, he led a team of scientists, engineers, and technologists in the development of systems for Human Space Flight, Astrophysics, Planetary and Earth Science missions, as well as missions for NOAA and USGS including the James Webb Telescope. The James Webb Telescope is an ambitious project that launched in 2021 and has returned staggering images of the first galaxies that were formed more than 13 billion years ago. Dr. Scolese retired from NASA in 2019.

Dr. Scolese is the recipient of numerous honors including the 2018 AIAA Von Karman Award, the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, the NASA Distinguished Leadership Medal, Goddard Outstanding Leadership, and two NASA Outstanding Leadership Medals. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Dr. Scolese holds a Bachelor of Sciences degree in electrical and computer engineering from the University of New York at Buffalo; a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from George Washington University; and a Ph.D. in systems engineering from George Washington University.

The RNASA Foundation invites members of the public and the aerospace community to attend the black-tie event on April 26, 2024, at the Houston Hyatt Regency, where Dr. Scolese will be presented with the National Space Trophy during the 36th annual RNASA Space Awards gala. Please visit rnasa.org to reserve your table, purchase tickets, or inquire about sponsorship opportunities. If you would like to reserve a room for the evening, please contact the Hyatt at 713-654-1234 and inquire about the RNASA group rate.