

**3M plans to build a laboratory in space and intends to experiment on the next flight of the space shuttle, Discovery.**

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3M has put a series of proposals to NASA, and aims to secure from the administration a 10 year agreement to perform basic research in the space environment, where many manufacturing companies believe higher quality products could be made. Should an agreement be reached, 3M will perform experiments on the 72 space shuttle flights up to 1995.

On the next flight, due to begin on 7/11/84, 3M will experiment on the effect of zero gravity on crystal growth, and in early 1985 a flight will experiment with the growth of thin crystalline films of vapour generated from organic solids. 3M is a major user of these coatings in photographic and video products, and in a later experiment plans to test the effects of gravity and vacuum on the direction of micro crystal growth in thin organic films.

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