Media Lario ships the telescope assembly for the NASA JPL ASTHROS mission

Bosisio Parini, Italy, 1 September 2022 – Media Lario S.r.l. has shipped the 2.5-meter telescope for the ASTHROS mission of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The optical system of the telescope is comprised of gold-coated panels, precisely aligned on a carbon fibre support structure which is lightweight yet strong enough to maintain the mirror's precise shape during flight. The optics were produced using Media Lario's patented Repli-formed Optics™ technology which is ideal for light-weight high volume applications.

Artist's impression of the ASTHROS mission using a balloon larger than a football field to send a telescope 40 km above Antarctica (credit: NASA)

Media Lario's team celebrating the primary mirror alignment with JPL's ASTHROS Project Manager Jose Siles and CTO Giuseppe Valsecchi.

The mission will use a balloon the size of a football stadium to send the telescope above the stratosphere over Antarctica to study star formation. The ASTHROS mission, or Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths, is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California and is set to launch from Antarctica in December 2023. Jeff Lyons, CEO of Media Lario, said, "I am very proud of the team who have worked tirelessly to produce the best telescope possible for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at NASA. We now look forward to preparation, launch and initiating Scientific operations in Antarctica very soon."

José Achache, Chairman of Media Lario, said, "We are particularly proud at Media Lario that NASA JPL has selected our unique, highly scalable, mirror manufacturing technology for the optical system of ASTHROS. This confirms our belief that this technology will be a game changer for the space industry. Moving from artisanal optics manufacturing techniques to a true industrial process will enable new and demanding scientific missions as well as high-volume commercial optical telecommunication constellations."

Media Lario is located north of the industrial hub of Milan, Italy, in the region of Lombardia and Lake Como, an area rich with heritage and expertise in the precision optical mechanical industry.

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For information on the ASTHROS mission, please visit: https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/asthros
For a Media Release, "This Week @ NASA", please visit: https://youtu.be/NCg6aeole70
For more information on Media Lario S.r.l., please visit: http://www.medialario.com/