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The Spanish Astronomical Society (SEA) has received with great concern the recent news of a possible cancellation of the JWST mission. The Society, which comprises over 80% of the Spanish professional astronomers, considers JWST as a truly revolutionary facility with unique capabilities. JWST is a key element for the future of Astronomy, and other planned international ground-based facilities will not be able to reach their full potential without the JWST. The termination of JWST will be an irreplaceable lost for Astrophysics, and science in general, for the coming decades.

JWST will serve astronomers in Spain and worldwide to substantially increase and revolutionize our knowledge of the Universe. JWST will be able to see the first galaxies, to study their assembly and evolution, to reveal the births of planetary systems, and even to identify tracers of water in exoplanets. There is no other planned scientific satellite or ground-based observatory that can achieve these broad science goals.

The Spanish Astronomical Society trusts that the JWST mission will be able to continue its progress towards completion. JWST will undoubtedly be an extraordinary success for Astronomy as its predecessor, the Hubble Space Telescope.



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cc: Prof. Debra Elmegreen, President American Astronomical Society
Prof. William S. Smith, President AURA