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The First Step

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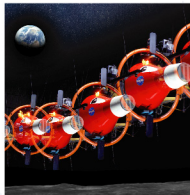
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The Rendezvous Docking Simulator

The Rendezvous Docking Simulator, also known as the Real-Time Dynamic Simulator, is a simulator at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

Constructed for the Gemini program, it became operational in June 1963 at a cost of \$320,000 and was later reconfigured for the Apollo program.



The simulator consists of a gantry frame, with an overhead carriage to suspend test craft by cables. A hydraulically powered gimbal was capable of changing pitch and yaw at a rate of 1 radian per second or roll at 2 radians per second. The gantry also moved like an overhead crane using electric motors and was capable of travelling 210 feet (64 m) longitudinally at up to 20 feet per second (6.1 m/s), 16 feet (4.9 m) laterally at up to 4 feet per second (1.2 m/s) and vertically 45 feet (14 m) at up to 10 feet per second (3.0 m/s).

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