ASNT VISIT TO THE JET PROPULSION LABORATORY IN PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

On Nov. 8, 1993 during the Fall ASNT Conference that was held at Long Beach, a group of 43 individuals visited the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The visitors convened for a Welcome to JPL session at the von Karman Auditorium in which two Spacecraft are in background of the audience (see Figures 1 and 2). Mr. Tim O'Donnell, Deputy Section Manager, Space Materials Science and Engineering Section, reviewed the Jet Propulsion Lab functions, objectives and history. JPL is a Federally funded research and development center, an operating division of Caltech and a major contractor of NASA. Mr Jim Schroeder explained the role that JPL is playing to support industry in becoming more competitive through the Technology Affiliates Program, one mechanism of obtaining JPL technological assistance. The session was concluded with a 20-minute Multi-Media presentation entitled "Welcome to outer Space" in which JPL deep space exploration program was covered.

The visitors were then walked to the JPL Flight Operation Control and were given an opportunity to see the facility and to view a computer processed 3-D movie of the Los Angeles area from space. Later, the visitors visited the Spacecraft Assembly and Test Facility and saw a mock-up of the CASSINI spacecraft which is scheduled for launch in 1996. The tour ended at the Materials Characterization Lab that includes NDE and Active Materials/Sensors testing facility. The visitors were shown the system that was recently developed to measure elastic properties with an access from a single side to composites. Further, a demonstration was made showing the performance of the recently installed computer controlled contour-following AIT C-scan system.

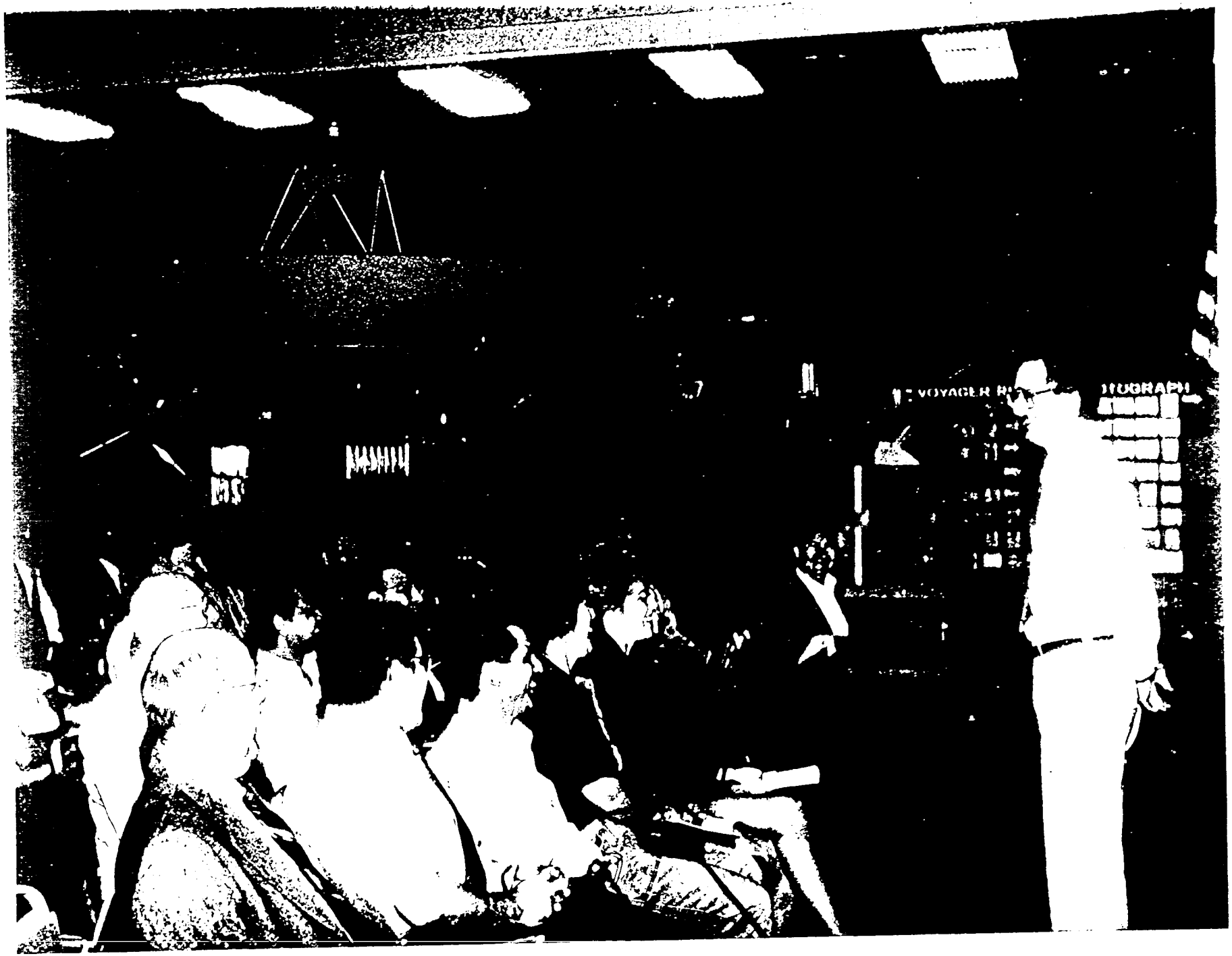

Figure 1: Mr. Tim O'Donnell is speaking to the ASNT visitors about the JPL Technology Affiliates Program.

Figure 2: Dr. G. Matzkanin, from TRI, Dr. S. lin from OSU, and Dr. Bar-Cohen from JPL, are discussing NDE issues related to spacecraft structures.