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The Sentinel Space Telescope – Overview and Status

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ABSTRACT

The Sentinel Space Telescope is a 50-cm aperture long-wavelength infrared space telescope to be placed in Venus-like Solar orbit to discover and track Near Earth Asteroids. Sentinel is planned to launch in late 2017 or early 2018. In 6.5 years of operation, Sentinel is expected to discover and track greater than 90 percent of NEOs larger than 140 meters, and hundreds of thousands of NEOs smaller than that. The history of the project will be reviewed along with the current status of the project. We will describe the overall mission, NEO detection capabilities, and results of early detector prototype testing.