



KSC Countdown

Aug. 15, 2006

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 11, No. 60

Flight Readiness Review to set official STS-115 launch date

Expedition 13 crew prepares space station for Atlantis arrival

◆ **Mission Update:** NASA officials will host a news conference no earlier than 2 p.m. Wednesday, following a two-day detailed assessment of the readiness of Space Shuttle Atlantis for launch. The briefing will air live on NASA TV from KSC. The news conference follows the traditional Flight Readiness Review, a thorough assessment of preparations for the mission. The Aug. 15-16 meeting is designed to produce a number of key decisions about Atlantis' mission, STS-115, including selection of an official launch date.

Briefing participants are Michael Griffin, NASA administrator; Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for Space Operations; Wayne Hale, Space Shuttle Program manager; and Mike Leinbach, NASA launch director. The specific start time of the news conference depends on the time of the meeting's conclusion.

At Launch Pad 39B, functional tests and checkout of the shuttle and pad systems are under way. Installation of the elbow camera of the orbiter's remote manipulator system (robotic arm) is complete. Last week-end, hypergolic propellant loading began for the orbiter's reaction control system, orbital maneuvering system pods and the auxiliary power units, and for the hydraulic power units of the solid rocket boosters.

◆ **ISS Update:** The International Space Station crew started out last week with two days of standard

maintenance work on the treadmill vibration isolation system, a special exercise treadmill located on the floor of the Zvezda living quarters module. Crews perform the maintenance task every six months to inspect the treadmill's components, replace worn items and install new bearings. Extensive exercise is a daily regimen for all station crew members as one method of counteracting the effects of long exposure to weightlessness.

The crew had time set aside each day last week to pack up and prepare items that will be moved from the station to the shuttle during Atlantis' flight. In addition, ground controllers worked with the station's Canadarm2 robotic arm to prepare for the upcoming shuttle flight.

On Thursday, they moved the arm to position cameras to view markings on the station used for a graphical computer alignment aid when new components are attached. That aid, called the space vision system, will be used during Atlantis' flight to help with the attachment of the new truss section.

On Friday, controllers moved the arm to perform an early checkout of its systems, ensuring it is ready for the shuttle mission.

■ **KSC FY 2006 Bi-Annual Environmental & Energy Awards Call Nominations Due Aug. 25** — Once again, employees are invited to participate in the KSC FY 2006 Bi-Annual Environmental & Energy

Awards Call. The award is given to an individual or team recognizing their contributions and/or successful operations in preserving the environment, conserving energy, and preserving natural resources while reaching for the stars.

The categories are: (a) Affirmative Procurement, (b) Education, Outreach, and Awareness, (c) Energy Conservation, (d) Environmental and Energy Leader, (e) Hazardous Waste, (f) Historic/Archaeological Preservation, (g) Natural Resources/Habitat Conservation, (h) Recycling (i) Waste Prevention, and (j) Water Conservation. Nominations to the Environmental & Energy Awards Program are due by close of business **Aug. 25**, to Barbara Naylor/TA-C3. For nomination forms, contact Naylor at 867-8452 or Alice Smith at 867-8754. The date for the Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony has not yet been scheduled.

■ **Did You Know?** In compliance with NASA directives, Canaveral National Seashore at Playalinda Beach in Brevard County will close at 6 p.m. on Aug. 23 in preparation for the Aug. 27 space shuttle launch. In addition, parking lot No. 5 at Apollo Beach will close to vehicles and boats beginning Aug. 21. Visitors will be allowed up to parking area No. 4, which will be the road turn-around point due to NASA camera requirements, which will block access at No. 5. Both closures will remain in effect until the day after a successful launch unless notified otherwise. Please note that these dates are tentative, and may be modified or extended by NASA.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays.

E-mail news to Anita.Barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815.

Find KSC Countdown on the Internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html>