



countdown

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Atlantis scrub sends crew home for holidays

◆ **Shuttle Update:** The STS-122 crew flew back to Houston on Sunday after launch of space shuttle Atlantis was delayed when a failure occurred in a fuel sensor system as Atlantis' external fuel tank was being filled. One of the four engine cutoff sensors inside the liquid hydrogen section of the tank gave a false reading. NASA's current launch commit criteria for STS-122 require that all four sensors function properly. The sensor system is one of several that protect the shuttle's main engines by triggering their shutdown if fuel runs unexpectedly low.

The crew released the following statement after the scrub: "We want to thank everyone who worked so hard to get us into space this launch window. We had support teams working around the clock at KSC, JSC and numerous sites in Europe. We were ready to fly, but understand that these types of technical challenges are part of the space program. We hope everyone gets some well-deserved rest, and we will be back to try again when the vehicle is ready to fly."

Space shuttle Atlantis' STS-122 mis-

Did You Know? December is filled with international holidays:

- Dec. 4: Hanukkah begins
- Dec. 10: Human Rights Day
- Dec. 12: Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe (Mexico)
- Dec. 20: Eid al-Adha, the most important feast of the Muslim calendar
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day
- Dec. 26: Boxing Day (UK/Australia/Canada)
- Dec. 26-Jan. 1: Kwanzaa

sion now is targeting launch no earlier than Jan. 2. The liftoff date depends on the resolution of the problem in the fuel sensor system.

◆ **NASA News Update:** Astronomers will hold a media teleconference at 1 p.m. Monday to announce the discovery of a first-of-its-kind phenomenon involving a black hole and a neighboring galaxy. Researchers made the finding by combining data from NASA's space-based telescopes and ground-based observations. A video file about the discovery, including interview footage with the principal investigator and dramatic new animation, will air on NASA Television. For NASA TV streaming video, downlink and scheduling information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

■ **Medical Clinics Holiday Schedule** — The Occupational Health Facility (OHF, M6-495) will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1. The Launch Area Clinic (LAC located in the MFF) will be closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 1. The Visitor Center Clinic will be closed December 25.

Emergency medical services are available 24/7 by dialing 911 (from a cell phone, dial 867-7911).

■ **KSC Fitness Centers' December Schedule** — Due to repair modifications, the O&C's fitness center will be closed Dec. 17 and will reopen at 5:30 a.m. Jan. 2. The OSB will remain open the week of Dec. 17 - 21. The OSB will then close beginning Dec. 24 and will reopen at 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 2.

If you have any questions, please call

Black hole finding airs on NASA TV Monday

either the O&C at 867-7829 or the OSB at 861-2133.

■ **KEA Presents: Integrated Testing Between Constellation Systems** — The KSC Engineering Academy, or KEA, will host its 12th training event, Integrated Testing between Constellation Systems at Kennedy, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday at the KSC Training Auditorium. Tim Honeycutt, integrated test and verification lead in the Kennedy Constellation Project Office, will discuss integrated testing that occurs between two or more individual Constellation systems to verify their interfaces, and to validate the integrated systems' functionality and interoperability.

NASA and contractor personnel are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Gisele Altman at gisele.altman-1@nasa.gov or 867-4000. You may also visit the Web site <http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/> for information.



■ **Coffee Reminder** — Center Director Bill Parsons invites all civil service and contractor employees to enjoy refreshments and to exchange greetings of the season with your friends and co-workers at the KSC Learning Institute (behind the Headquarters Bldg.) from 8:30 to 10 a.m. **Friday.**

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@bosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.