



countdown

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External tank arrives for Endeavour's STS-126 mission



◆ Shuttle Update:

The Pegasus barge carrying the external fuel tank for space shuttle Endeavour's STS-126 mission to the International Space Station arrived at Kennedy Monday. Endeavour will deliver a multi-purpose logistics module to the space station. Launch is targeted for Nov. 10.

◆ **ELV Update:** At Vandenberg Air Force Base in California this week, the IBEX spacecraft is undergoing testing of its science instruments. The upper-stage motor was spin-balanced on Aug. 7. On Monday, the spacecraft was fueled. Spacecraft spin balancing is scheduled for Thursday. On Friday, IBEX will be integrated to the upper stage, and the integrated stack spin-balanced the following day.

At the Orbital Sciences launch vehicle hangar, prelaunch processing of the Pegasus XL rocket continues on schedule. Mating of the second and third stages is under way. Mating of the first and second stages is scheduled for this week.

The L-1011 carrying the IBEX on the Pegasus XL rocket is planned to depart from Vandenberg Sept. 25, stop in Hawaii, and arrive at the Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the South Pacific on Sept. 26.

Did you know? Every three months, Americans put enough aluminum in landfills to rebuild the entire United States commercial air fleet? Rethink recycling. It matters more than you think.

Mating of IBEX to upper stage takes place Friday

■ **2008 Family Day** — On Oct. 18, badged KSC, CCAFS and contractor employees can bring family and friends to tour facilities, meet co-workers, and view their work environment during the 2008 Family Day. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for employees and their guests only. Details about facilities, exhibits and activities, as well as a link to the Family Day Web site will soon be available.

■ **PIDS Move Delayed** — There has been a delay in the move of PIDS 3 on S.R.405 to the new badging facility on S.R. 405, just west of Gate 3. The move will start on Thursday and should be complete on Friday. During the move, badging services will continue without interruption. The new facility should be fully operational at 6 a.m. Aug. 18. Signs will direct personnel to the new facility. Your patience during this effort is appreciated.

■ **STS-124 Crew Return Presentation Aug. 13** — All employees are invited to welcome the crew of STS-124 back to KSC! Commander Mark Kelly and his crew will share personal stories, photos and videos of their exciting and challenging journey. The STS-124 crew return presentation will be held 11 a.m. - noon Wednesday in the KSC Training Auditorium. Please arrive early as seating is on a first come, first served basis.

■ **Lessons Learned PM Challenge 2009 Speakers** — Do you have a lessons-learned topic of interest to project management stakeholders? Speaker proposals are being accepted until September 8 for the Connect and Discover Lessons

Learned session at the 2009 Project Management Challenge to be held in Daytona Beach. Speaker proposals related to lessons learned in project scheduling, cost estimating and budgeting, change control and project risk management are requested. Submit proposals at: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/speaker2009.htm>.

■ **Recycling Slogan Contest Winners Selected** — Employee response to the recycling program expansion slogan contest has been **overwhelming!** In a very short time, 115 slogan suggestions were received! Entries were chosen from Dawn Meyer (USA) and John Kelley (Boeing) to combine into one winning message: "We Are GO For GREEN! KSC Wins When You Use The BINS" is being adopted as the KSC-wide plastic, glass and aluminum recycling program promotional slogan. All runner-up selections will also be kept on file for possible future use in advertisement and promotional materials. Congratulations to Dawn and John.

■ **August 2008 Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Screening** — No appointment is necessary. You must fast for 12 hours prior to screening (water only). *Time/Dates: 7-8 a.m. Wednesday at the OHF; 7-8 a.m. Thursday at the MFF Cafeteria/Launch Area Clinic.*

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