



## New Shuttle boom arriving for Discovery installation

▲ **Shuttle Update:** Final close-outs and seal installations continue on **Discovery's** Rudder Speed Brake. The new Orbiter Boom Sensor System (OBSS) is scheduled to arrive as early as this week. Once at KSC, it will be taken to the Remote Manipulator System lab in the Vehicle Assembly Building for final checkout and testing prior to moving over to the Orbiter Processing Facility for installation into Discovery.

The 50-foot-long OBSS will attach to the Remote Manipulator System, or Shuttle arm, and is one of the new safety measures for Return to Flight, equipping the orbiter with cameras and laser systems to inspect the Shuttle's Thermal Protection System while in space.

**Atlantis** continues to remain in a power-down period to complete the final wiring for the Return to Flight modifications, including the new OBSS, wing leading edge sensors and the External Tank separation camera. The vehicle is scheduled to be powered up this week.

The body flap is scheduled to be installed on Atlantis in early January. The body flap actuators were removed and inspected prior to being reinstalled on the vehicle. The fuel cells and external airlock are scheduled to be installed following the holidays.



▲ **NASA Update:** NASA has modified the Cargo Mission Contract, held by Lockheed Martin, adding \$62.5 million to include unpressurized payload bay cargo carriers on three future Space Shuttle missions, two of which also include a pressurized SPACEHAB module.

The unpressurized Integrated Cargo Carriers have been added to Shuttle missions STS-121, STS-116 and STS-118. Missions STS-116 and STS-118 also added pressurized SPACEHAB Logistics Single Modules.

The contract calls for services for the Space Shuttle and International

## Modified Shuttle cargo contract adds carriers, SPACEHAB to missions

Space Station. Services include mission planning, cargo coordination, stowage integration, analytical integration, physical processing, on-orbit operations, sustaining engineering and management, and integration of commercial cargo carriers and services.

■ **Three Shopping Days Left** — Through Dec. 24, all badged KSC and CCAFS employees receive a 30 percent discount at all Visitor Complex retail locations, including the Space Shop at the main Visitor Complex and the gift shop at the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Please present your badge at the will call ticket window to receive a complimentary limited admission ticket for shopping. You must present your badge at the time of purchase. This offer is not transferable and cannot be combined with any other discount.

■ **Down for the Count** — *KSC Countdown* will be on hiatus until after the holidays.

■ **Did You Know?** The KSC Post Office will be closed for the holiday period Dec. 23 through Jan. 2. Normal hours of operation from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. will resume Jan. 3. For information, please call 867-2413 or 867-1736.