KSC COUNTDOWN

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Discovery's External Tank is ready for SRB mating

▲ **Shuttle Update:** System testing continues on Discovery with fuel cell valve tests, Auxiliary Power Unit controller checkout and payload bay door functional tests. In the payload bay, the keel yolk assembly for an external stowage platform was installed last week. The platform will be deployed and mounted to the International Space Station and will be used by crews as a permanent spare parts facility on the Station.

In the Space Station Processing Facility, prep work is under way for the installation of the racks into the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module named Raffaello.

In the Vehicle Assembly Building, all final closeouts have been completed on the External Tank (ET) in the checkout cell prior to the tank being mated to the Solid Rocket Boosters (SRBs).

Repairs continue to progress well on the SRB aft inactive stub, an attach ring surrounding the booster located approximately 10 ft. below the point where the External Tank mates to the SRBs.

In preparation for ET/SRB mate, alignment optics began on Monday. The External Tank is scheduled to be moved to the integration cell and mated with the SRBs on Feb. 21.

▲ **ISS Update:** Last week, the Expedition 10 crew on the Space Station focused on science experiments, Progress undocking preparations and robotic arm operations. The crew installed a Navigation Receiving Module in the Russian segment for Station attitude determination. Commander and Science Officer Leroy Chiao continued work in the Quest, regenerating two Metal Oxide or METOX canisters for use in U.S. spacesuits. Those canisters "scrub" air exhaled into the spacesuit system of carbon dioxide and recharge the oxygen.

ISS crew completes productive week

The crew also supported nearly 14 hours of science and medical experiments. Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov worked on the Cardio-Cog experiment and Plasma Crystal, a Russian experiment that studies plasma dust crystals and fluids in microgravity. Chiao captured still photos documenting the progress of the Binary Colloidal Alloy Test, which looks at the long-term behavior of colloid particles suspended in fluids, such as ink, paint and milk.

Both crewmembers participated in continued studies as part of the Advanced Diagnostic Ultrasound in Microgravity experiment.

■ **Space Coast Women Engineer of the Year Awards Banquet** — The Space Coast Section of the Society of Women is holding a banquet March 3 at Rockledge Country Club to announce the Space Coast Women Engineer of the Year Awards: the Outstanding Woman Engineer of the Year, Woman Engineer Technical Achievement and the Distinguished New Engineer of the Year. The banquet speaker is SWE national president elect Ronna Robertson, who will talk about "The Journey to Achievement." The banquet is open to the general public. A social hour at 6 p.m. will precede the 7 p.m. dinner. The cost is $27 for Society members and $35 for guests. Reservations and information are available from Suzanne Calhoun at 459-3587 or e-mail *suzannecalhoun@bellsouth.net.* Reservations deadline is Feb. 24.

In addition to these awards, the Society of Women Engineers is also presenting two $1,000 scholarships to young women graduating from high school who live or attend school in Brevard, Indian River or Volusia counties and will be pursuing a degree in engineering, math or computer science.

■ **Did You Know?** The February 2005 cardiovascular disease (CVD) screening is Wednesday at the OHF and Thursday at the MFF. Hours are 7-8 a.m. The 2-page CVD questionnaire can be picked up at any medical facility or downloaded from the SGS home page/forms: **http://kscboc-forms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010.itr.**

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