



## Return to Flight nears with Discovery rollover to VAB

## DART next ELV launch April 15 at Vandenberg AFB

### ▲ Return to Flight Update:

Discovery is targeted to roll over to the Vehicle Assembly Building this weekend or early next week.

▲ **ELV Update:** The next launch of an Expendable Launch Vehicle is Demonstration of Autonomous Rendezvous Technology (DART) from Vandenberg AFB in California April 15. DART hardware and software technologies are integrated into the space launch vehicle Pegasus. The Pegasus will be launched from its Stargazer L-1011 aircraft about 40,000 feet over the Pacific Ocean, boosting DART into a low-Earth polar orbit, where it will pass over each pole approximately every 99 minutes.

Once on orbit, DART will travel around the Earth to rendezvous with its target -- the Multiple Paths, Beyond-Line-of-Site Communications experimental communications satellite.

Flight demonstrators, like DART, will help lay the groundwork for future reusable manned and unmanned launch vehicle missions using autonomous rendezvous operations, as NASA pursues technologies that will enable the Agency to achieve its goals of establishing safe, reliable, affordable access to space.

### ■ New Horizons Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meetings at FSEC — NASA

announced on Feb. 25 the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the New Horizons Mission for public comment (70 Federal Register 9287). This Notice of Availability is also available in the legal notice section of today's newspaper. The public comment period will end April 11.

The proposed New Horizons mission would explore Pluto, its moon Charon, and possibly one or more objects within the Kuiper Belt. The DEIS addresses alternatives and the potential environmental impacts associated with preparations for and implementation of this proposed mission.

NASA will hold two public meetings on the DEIS: 6 p.m. March 29 and 1p.m. March 30 at the Florida Solar Energy Center, 1679 Clearlake Road, in Cocoa (321-632-1111). The meetings will begin with informal discussions with NASA representatives, and will be followed by brief NASA presentations and an opportunity for oral public comments. Written comments will be accepted anytime during the meeting.

Requests for a hard copy of the DEIS and written comments may also be submitted by U.S. mail or electronic mail to: Kurt Lindstrom, Mail Stop 3K39-A, Mission and Systems Management Division, Science Mission Directorate, NASA HQ, 300 E. Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20546-0001; or e-mail

*osspluto@hq.nasa.gov*. The DEIS is also available at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov/admin/pubs/plutoeis/index.htm>. Requests for a copy of the DEIS or special accommodations may also be made by calling 202-358-1588.

*KSC employees are invited to hear Orlando Figueroa, deputy associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate (Program), speak from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on March 28 in the Training Auditorium about this upcoming mission.*



### ■ Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Annual Lobster/Clam Bake —

Join lighthouse enthusiasts for a lobster/clam bake at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse from noon to 4 p.m. on April 2. Cost is \$25 per person (minimum age is 12 years old). Weather permitting, the stairway to the third level will be open. No tickets will be available at the event. RSVPs must be made on the Web site [capecanaveralighthousefoundation.com](http://capecanaveralighthousefoundation.com) or call 321-459-2531.

■ **Did You Know?** You can get a "holiday discount" through March 29 for a 30-minute massage in room 1023, O&C Building. Cost is only \$20. Contact Valerie (L.M.T. #19362) at 867-4762 or e-mail [JaramVS@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:JaramVS@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov).