



## Atlantis to get new External Tank this month

## Complex remote control tests successful on Canadarm 2

▲ **Shuttle Update:** Technicians continue power-up testing on Atlantis in Orbiter Processing Facility bay 1 for its mission to the International Space Station. Forward-, midbody- and aft-area closeouts are continuing. Atlantis is currently scheduled to be rolled from the processing facility to the Vehicle Assembly Building in mid-July.

The third redesigned External Tank (ET-119) is scheduled to be shipped from the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans to Kennedy Space Center on Thursday. It will arrive via a specially designed barge about five days later. ET-119 may fly with Atlantis on its Return to Flight mission.

▲ **ISS Update:** A new capability was added to the operation of the International Space Station last week as a final round of tests was completed to commission remote control of the Station's Canadarm2 robotic arm from the ground. The 60-foot-long arm was maneuvered by ground control Friday to move in, latch onto a fixture on the exterior of the Station, then release and move back out. The tests were the second and most complex remote control operations of the arm performed by the ground. A first set of tests, completed earlier this year, involved only basic movements. Completion of these two phases of commissioning will qualify the ground control

capability to be considered for use during future Station operations if needed.

During the tests, the arm was controlled by the robotics officer, or ROBO, in the Space Station Flight Control Room of Mission Control. Aboard the Station, Flight Engineer and NASA Science Officer John Phillips monitored the activity. Normally, the arm is controlled by the Station crew using a robotics workstation in the complex's Destiny Laboratory.

■ **Learn About GOES-N** — NASA Direct, Kennedy Space Center's Internet broadcasting network, is featuring a prelaunch webcast of NASA's GOES-N mission beginning 3:30 p.m. EDT June 21. The webcast offers an overview of GOES-N's Earth-observing technologies. The program includes informative interviews with representatives from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Experts will also take part in a question-and-answer session discussing the mission's goals, as well as science and technology involved in GOES-N. The launch is set for June 23 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, with a launch window of 6:13 to 6:58 a.m. EDT. Updates on launch preparations can be viewed through the NASA portal Web site at: [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/goes-n/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/goes-n/main/index.html).

GOES-N prelaunch webcast participants are Tiffany Nail, KSC's launch services specialist, who is hosting the program; NOAA GOES Program Manager Steve Kirkner introducing the GOES-N mission; and U. S. Air Force Weather Officer Todd McNamara offering a forecast for the latest weather conditions on launch day. Rick Navarro, Boeing launch manager, will detail Delta IV rocket preparations and provide a launch countdown overview. GOES Deputy Program Manager Andre' Dress will answer questions about the spacecraft and mission submitted by Web site visitors to the NASA Direct Question Board.

■ **Did You Know?** Contest winners came close in guessing the April electric bills for the KSC Industrial and LC-39 Areas. The winner of the SGS chrome desk clock is Keely Roesler for guessing closest to the monthly electric bill for the LC-39 Area. Her guess of \$667,752 for the LC-39 Area was only \$897.86 off. The winner of the SGS sport shirt is Michael Imparato for guessing closest to the April 2005 electric bill for the KSC Industrial Area. Mike's guess of \$600,200 was a difference of only \$509.25, less than one tenth of 1 percent! The Energy Office hopes that this contest made everyone aware of the huge amount of money that we spend on energy here at KSC.