



## Discovery ready to start processing for STS-121

▲ **Mission Update:** After Discovery's much-viewed piggyback-style return to KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF) on Sunday, the orbiter was towed to the mate/demate device and demated overnight. Later on Monday, Discovery was towed to the Orbiter Processing Facility. Once inside the OPF, the payload bay doors were opened and the MPLM Raffaello brought back from the International Space Station was unloaded for transfer to the SSPF. This concludes mission STS-114.



NASA announced last week that the second test flight to the International Space Station in the Shuttle Return to Flight series, Space Shuttle mission STS-121, is now targeted for March 2006. Discovery will be used for STS-121 instead of Atlantis, putting NASA in a better position for future missions to the Space Station. Atlantis will fly the following mission, STS-115, carrying Space Station truss segments which

are too heavy to be carried by Discovery. By changing the lineup, the program won't have to fly back-to-back missions with Atlantis, as was previously scheduled.

▲ **Shuttle Update:** External Tank 119 was expected to be moved from the Vehicle Assembly Building Monday and loaded onto the barge docked at the Turn Basin nearby. The tank will embark today on a voyage to the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans.



■ **Reminder** — The monthly workshop for the Nutrition Education for Workers (N.E.W.S.) program is being held Aug. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Operations Support Building, Room 6320. The topic is "Nutrition for Weight Loss."

■ **Sign Language Course** — The Disability Awareness and Action Working Group (DAAWG) is hosting an introductory sign language course. This is a three-week course being held 2-3 p.m. once a week in HQ, room 2201, for three consecutive weeks, starting Sept. 7. Space is

## Another External Tank returning to Michoud

limited! To enroll, please contact Lisa Arnold at [Lisa.R.Arnold@nasa.gov](mailto:Lisa.R.Arnold@nasa.gov).

■ **NASA Science** — Astronauts on the Moon and Mars may have to cope with an uncommon amount of static electricity. Static discharge is merely annoying to anyone on Earth but to astronauts on the Moon or on Mars, static discharge could be real trouble. Read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/10aug\\_crackling.htm?list29875](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/10aug_crackling.htm?list29875) and also learn what triboelectric charging is.

■ **Road Closure Notice** — A section of 5th street between B and C Avenue at KSC Industrial Area will be closed starting Aug. 29 until Feb. 28 due to an environmental remedial action. Please note the road is closed for traffic as well as pedestrians. Please make arrangements for alternate routes, such as 4th street.

■ **Did You Know?** The mate/demate facility consists of two 100-foot towers with stationary work platforms at the 20-, 40-, 60- and 80-foot levels on each tower and a horizontal structure mounted at the 80-foot level between the two towers. The horizontal unit cantilevers 70 feet out from the main tower units and controls and guides a large lift beam that attaches to the orbiters to raise and lower them.