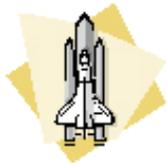


NASA closer to understanding shuttle tank foam loss



▲ Shuttle Update:

Engineers are progressing in resolving the problem of large foam insulation

falling off space shuttle external fuel tanks during launch. A “tiger team” is making recommendations addressing the factors that may have contributed to foam loss when Space Shuttle Discovery was launched in July.

The next shuttle mission is also on Discovery. It will be the second test flight in the return to flight sequence. At a news conference at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, space shuttle managers emphasized they have not set a specific launch date. NASA is using the May 3 to 23, 2006, launch window as a target for work to prepare Discovery for the mission.

Shuttle workers will likely replace and modify areas of insulation on the external tank where foam came loose during the July launch. Space Shuttle Program Manager Wayne Hale said a series of tests over the next several weeks would help further clarify the tank issues.

▲ **ELV Update:** The launch of CALIPSO/CloudSat from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California was postponed pending resolution of a problem that occurred while testing launch vehicle flight termination system batteries. The new launch date

is in early November, with the exact date still to be determined. The two spacecraft are installed within the Dual Payload Attach Fitting and are undergoing final battery charging in preparation for transport to Space Launch Complex 2. Except for the battery problem, Delta II preparations at the pad continue to go well.

■ **New Horizons Briefing For Employees** — KSC and CCAFS employees are invited to a briefing on NASA's upcoming mission to Pluto. The New Horizons spacecraft is now at KSC being prepared for liftoff on Jan. 11 aboard a Lockheed Martin Atlas V rocket from Launch Complex 41. The briefing will cover the mission, the spacecraft, the radioisotope thermoelectric generator power source and the associated risks. The briefing will be held from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the O&C Mission Briefing Room.

■ **Welcome Back** — Nov. 1 is the date when the STS-114 crew members will return to KSC after their mission. A "Welcome Back" celebration is being planned for that evening at the KSC Visitor Complex from 6 to 9:30 p.m. All KSC/CCAFS employees and members of their household are invited. Watch for more details coming soon.

■ **Senior Resource Day** – All Spaceport employees are invited to the second annual Senior Resource

Battery problem postpones CALIPSO/CloudSat launch

Day being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 26 in the O&C Mission Briefing Room. Vendors and community service representatives will be providing information and other valuable resources to assist with senior care. Jerry Allender (from the Allender & Allender law firm in Titusville) will speak at 10:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m. on elder care legal services.

■ **Second Annual KSC Diversity Event** — A celebration of diverse cultures and backgrounds will be held Oct. 29 at the Holiday Inn Express Convention Center in Cocoa. This year's theme is “*We all smile the same language.*” The event kicks off at 6:30 p.m. and lasts until midnight. For more information, contact Delores Abraham at 867-9276; for tickets, contact Helen Kane at 867-2001.

■ **Did You Know?** The NASA Exchange book fair is back! Don't miss the great selection and savings! Dates and locations are as follows: Oct. 18-19, O&C/Rm. 1055; Oct. 20-21, SSPF Café; Oct. 24-25, Logistics/1721; Oct. 26-28, MFF Café; Nov. 1-2, HQ Café. Don't forget to check out the Christmas merchandise in the retail stores. Store hours and locations are as follows: HQ (7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), OSB (7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.), SSPF (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), O&C (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).