



KSC Countdown

March 2, 2006

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 11, No. 16

Discovery's external tank in VAB for checkout



◆ **Shuttle Update:** The redesigned external fuel tank that will launch the Space Shuttle Discovery on the

next shuttle mission arrived Wednesday at the turn basin in the Launch Complex 39 Area. The barge carrying the tank departed from the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans on Feb. 25.

Designated ET-119, the tank will fly with many major safety changes, including the removal of the protuberance air load ramps, which were removed to help eliminate a potential source of damaging debris to the space shuttle.

The tank rolled into the Vehicle Assembly Building after 6 p.m. It will be lifted into the checkout cell for further work.

◆ **ELV Update:** Closeouts are complete on the Space Technology 5 spacecraft as it awaits launch on March 14 aboard a Pegasus XL rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

CALIPSO and CloudSat are installed in the dual payload attach fitting at the Astrotech payload processing facilities on north Vandenberg. They will remain there until a new launch date in April is determined and then be prepared for

transportation to NASA's Space Launch Complex 2.

■ **Heads of Agency Meet Today** — NASA Administrator Mike Griffin meets today with representatives from the International Space Station partnership: the Canadian Space Agency, European Space Agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and Russian Federal Space Agency. A news conference following the meeting will air live on NASA TV beginning at 1 p.m.



■ **Train for Space Exploration This Spring at Camp Kennedy Space Center** — Camp Kennedy Space Center offers children in or entering second through ninth grades

an out-of-this-world experience to explore space as never before. The spring session runs March 27 to 31. Summer camp sessions run June 5 through August 11.

Camp KSC is based at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Spring camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended early drop-off and late pick-up hours available. Campers receive a complimentary KSC Visitor Complex 12-month pass, lunches and afternoon snacks, an official Camp KSC T-shirt, four complimentary

Launch of Space Technology 5 moves to March 14

admission tickets to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, a Camp KSC graduation ceremony and a certificate of completion.

For more information and details on registration, call 449-4444 or visit www.KennedySpaceCenter.com.

■ **NASA Science:** Olympic aerialist and gold medal winner Eric Bergoust discusses the wonderful possibilities of ski-jumping on the moon in an online story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/14feb_bigair.htm?list29875.

American snowboarder Hannah Teter won a gold medal at the 2006 Torino Olympic Games. In an educational video she made for NASA, Teter explains why snowboarders would make good astronauts. Watch the video at <http://brainbites.nasa.gov/snowboarder/>.

■ **Did You Know?** You can register online for NASA's third Project Management Challenge conference to be held at Galveston, Texas, March 21-22. Go to <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/registration2006.htm>. The theme for this year's conference is "Putting Ideas into Action!" The speaker biographies and presentation topic abstracts for NASA's Project Management Challenge 2006 are now posted on the Web site at <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/program.htm#Programsummary>.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays.

E-mail news to Anita.Barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815.

Find KSC Countdown on the Internet at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html>