



# KSC Countdown

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## Discovery prepares for rollover to VAB next month

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Final closeouts continue on orbiter **Discovery** in preparation for its rollover from Orbiter Processing Facility bay 3 to the Vehicle Assembly Building in April. Leak checks of the liquid oxygen system on space shuttle main engines No. 2 and 3 were successfully completed.

On March 4, space shuttle technicians inside a work platform device, called a bridge bucket, accidentally bumped into Discovery's remote manipulator system, or shuttle arm. The bridge bucket was being used in the payload bay to clean up pieces of glass, following the accidental breaking of a heat lamp. The initial inspections showed two indentations in the arm's outer bumper, a honeycombed structure made of epoxy and designed to protect the arm. One of the indentations is 0.115 inch deep and 1 inch long. The second indentation is 0.035 inch deep and 1/2 inch long. Inspections of the forward indentation were completed March 9 and no issues were found.

Final closeouts continue in the checkout cell of the Vehicle Assembly Building on the external tank that will fly with Discovery, designated ET-119. A series of external tank wind tunnel tests began last week and will continue for several weeks. Analysis of the testing will be ongoing.

## Forecast improves for ST5 launch Wednesday

◆ **ELV Update:** The launch of Space Technology 5 (ST5) from Vandenberg Air Force Base was postponed 24 hours due to weather. The forecast was 80 percent no go for today. On Wednesday, it drops to only 20 percent no go. The launch time is the same, 9:02 a.m. EST, so NASA TV coverage is still planned to start at 7:30 a.m. EST Wednesday.

■ **Blood Drive** — The next KSC Blood Drive at the O&C Bldg. will take place March 16 (8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and March 17 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). This time, the red bus staff will be inside the O&C, in the Mission Briefing Room! Call 867-1944 or e-mail Aida Teague at [teaguan@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:teaguan@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov) to schedule your appointment. Bring your Club Red membership card and become eligible to receive discount coupons to Darden Restaurants. Wondering if you can donate blood? To read the requirements and the benefits, go to <http://floridasbloodcenters.org/DonatingBlood.html>.

■ **Education Opportunity** — The next term at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Space Coast Center begins March 20. Evening and Web-based classes fit the busy adult learner's schedule. Fully accredited by SACS, the school offers certificates, associate and bachelor degrees, and graduate

degrees in the aviation, safety, space and management areas. An M.S. degree in management and a B.S. degree in technical management are available at great tuition rates. Look for an M.S. degree program in project management coming this summer. For information, call Jan Bridgham at 321-783-5020, send an e-mail to [space.coast.center@erau.edu](mailto:space.coast.center@erau.edu), or go to the Web site <http://www.embryriddle.edu/spacecoast>.

■ **The One NASA Peer Award Program** — Designed to reward achievements supporting NASA's strategic goals that utilize a One NASA approach, the award is given in one of the following three theme areas: (1) Making decisions for the common good, (2) Collaborating to leverage existing capabilities, (3) Standardization that demonstrates efficiency. You can easily nominate individuals or teams from anywhere across the Agency, including both contractors and civil servants. To recognize your colleagues, visit <http://www.onenasa.nasa.gov/TRIBUTES/Overview.htm> to place your nomination today.

■ **Did You Know?** St. Patrick's Day commemorates the death of the Irish bishop in A.D. 461. The custom of wearing a shamrock was first publicly celebrated in the U.S. in 1737.