



KSC Countdown

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Replacing Discovery engine precautionary move



◆ Shuttle

Update: The remote manipulator system, or "shuttle arm," was transported from

the lab in the Vehicle Assembly Building last week and installed in **Discovery** Friday.

Also on Friday, program managers determined the space shuttle main engine No. 2 will need to be replaced due to the possibility of a crack in a solder joint in the controller. During the certification of similar controllers, engineers observed cracking after thermal testing of the units. The engine replacement has no impact on the overall processing schedule.

On **Atlantis**, crane operations removed and reinstalled the orbiter boom sensor system in the payload bay on Wednesday for additional work on the manipulator positioning mechanisms, which hold the boom in place in the payload bay while the boom is not in use.

Lockheed Martin employees are completing final work on **external tank** No. 119 required to close out the aft area of the tank in preparation for thermal protection system foam application, scheduled for late this week. Once the foam application is complete, the tank will be lifted from the transporter and attached to the two solid rocket boosters already

stacked in high bay 3 of the Vehicle Assembly Building. That move is scheduled for April 24.

◆ NASA Announces Black Hole Merger Breakthrough:

NASA is holding a media teleconference at 1 p.m. EDT **today** to announce a breakthrough in simulating black hole mergers and predicting their gravitational wave signatures. The finding is based on the largest astrophysical calculation ever performed by a NASA super-computer. Images and graphics supporting the briefing will be posted at the start of the event at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/godda rd/universe/gwave.html>.

■ **Space Flight Awareness Has New Web Site** — SFA has a newly updated and interesting Web site at <http://sfa.jsc.nasa.gov/m posters.cf m>. You'll discover all kinds of information regarding SFA points of contact at KSC, awards, presentations, upcoming events, SFA products, and more. You also will find a screen saver that you can download onto your computer.

■ **Lunch With KSC Center Director And Deputy Director** — The date has changed for the next "KSC, Can We Talk" forum. **The new date is May 11.** To apply for the chance to talk with Center Director Jim Kennedy and Deputy Director

NASA announcing black hole finding in conference today

Bill Parsons, send an e-mail by May 5 with your name, mail code and telephone number to CanWeTalk@ksce ms.ksc.nasa.gov.

■ **Headquarters Elevators Out Of Service** — The elevators in the Headquarters Building will be out of service on the following schedule:

- Elevator No. 5, located next to JBOSC reproduction, will be out of service Thursday to Saturday this week.
- Elevator No. 1, the most south elevator in the main lobby, will be out of service from April 27 to 29.
- Elevator No. 2, the middle elevator in the main lobby, will be out of service from May 4 to 12.

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Washburn at 720-8400 or Tom Walls at 536-7782.

■ **KSC National Day Of Prayer Observance** — KSC will mark this year's National Day of Prayer on May 4 with an observance from 11 a.m. to noon in the KSC Training Auditorium. If you would like to participate or assist in any way, please contact Ed Markowski at 867-0829.

■ **Did You Know?** The book fair is back. Don't miss out on the savings at the following locations and dates: **HQ Café**, April 18 - 19; **MFF Café**, April 20 - 21; **Logistics 1727**, May 1 - 2; and **SSPF Café**, May 4 - 5.

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>