



# KSC Countdown

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## Testing ends on Discovery, Endeavour; Atlantis' work ongoing



### ◆ Shuttle

**Update:** On the orbiter **Discovery**, interface verification tests were completed

for sensors No. 1 and 2 on the new orbiter boom sensor system. The payload bay doors were closed April 26 for the final time prior to flight.

On **Atlantis**, work continues on the alignment of the manipulator positioning mechanisms. These are the pedestals that hold the orbiter boom sensor system in place in the payload bay while the boom is not in use. Thermal protection system tile, blanket and gap filler work is ongoing.

On **Endeavour**, technicians completed ammonia system leak and functional testing last week. They also worked on external airlock fluid line connections and began leak checks Friday.

◆ **ISS Update:** Last week, Flight Engineer Jeff Williams replaced a remote power control module, a type of circuit breaker, in the International Space Station's Destiny laboratory. The power control module had not been functioning for some time, and electricity for many lab systems had been delivered via an alternate path. To gain access to the work site for replacement of the component, Williams had to disassemble and remove his sleeping compartment. Mission Control sequentially

powered off many lab systems and lights to facilitate the replacement. Williams accomplished all the work ahead of schedule, and the new power control module has been functioning well.

Science activities aboard the station during the past week included work by Williams with the Capillary Flow Experiment, which is an investigation of fluid behavior in weightlessness that may assist in the design of future spacecraft. The crew members also completed urine collection and notes about their food consumption for an experiment studying the formation of kidney stones in weightlessness.

Commander Pavel Vinogradov completed routine maintenance of the station's Elektron system. It was powered off much of the week and reactivated Friday. The Elektron provides oxygen for the cabin air from water.

Plans for this week include an engine firing on Thursday to boost the station's altitude, continued unloading of the newly arrived Progress vehicle and periodic crew health checks.

■ **Astronaut Book Signing** – The NASA Exchange will host a book signing featuring former astronaut Mike Mullane with his book "Riding Rockets." His book is available for purchase in all NASA Exchange retail stores. The dates and locations are as

## ISS crew replaces, repairs key modules

follows:

**Thursday**, HQ Lobby, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., and **Friday**, OSB Lobby, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ **NASA Science** – Every day, the moon is hit by a surprising number of meteoroids. NASA researchers are studying old Apollo data to find out if these projectiles pose a threat to future explorers. Read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/28apr\\_skyisfalling.htm?list29875](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/28apr_skyisfalling.htm?list29875).

■ **Save Gas, Money and Stress** – Try carpooling. Space Coast Commuter Assistance (SCCA) employees will be here on the following dates to assist you in joining/forming a carpool/vanpool:

- Today, HQ Lobby, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, OSB II Lobby, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you are unable to meet with SCCA, click on their Web site: [www.ridescat.com](http://www.ridescat.com).

■ **Did You Know?** KSC will mark this year's National Day of Prayer with an observance in the KSC Training Auditorium from 11 a.m. to noon **today**. Join others for a live band, singing and a prayer for our nation and the space program. With supervisory permission, all KSC and CCAFS employees are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Ed Markowski at 867-0829.

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

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