



KSC Countdown

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STS-116 crew gets familiar with mission hardware at KSC

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Last week, engineers reviewed the damage which was incurred to orbiter Discovery's right-hand external tank door mechanism during the process of reassembling the linkage following the change-out of the power drive unit. Replacement parts were installed this week.

The STS-116 crew is at KSC this week for the crew equipment interface test, allowing equipment familiarization and inspection of the items and hardware that will be used during the mission.

In the Vehicle Assembly Building, solid rocket booster stacking is complete and technicians are working on final joint closeout. Program managers held the external tank and booster mate review Tuesday, and mating of the tank is expected today.

◆ **ELV Update:** STEREO's Delta II second stage was re-erected atop the first stage on Sept. 29. Guidance and control system checks of the launch vehicle were completed on Oct. 4. Two days later, launch vehicle engineers performed a simulated flight test, which is an electrical and mechanical flight events test that activates the rocket's systems as they will occur during powered flight, starting with liftoff and ending with second stage separation. The Flight Program Verification, an integrated test which includes the STEREO spacecraft and upper stage booster, is scheduled for Oct. 16.

The twin observatories stacked on top of the upper stage booster were moved to the launch pad Wednesday and hoisted atop the Boeing Delta II rocket. The payload fairing is scheduled to be installed around STEREO on Oct. 19.

■ **Constellation Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Employee Briefing** — NASA will hold an employee briefing in the O&C Mission Briefing Room **from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 17** on the Constellation Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). In addition, two scoping meetings on the PEIS will be held at 1 and 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Florida Solar Energy Center, H. George Carrison Auditorium at 1679 Clearlake Road in Cocoa.

The Constellation Program encompasses NASA's efforts to extend a human presence throughout the solar system as President George W. Bush outlined in the Vision for Space Exploration. Initially the Constellation Program will focus on providing the capability to transport humans and cargo to the International Space Station and to the moon in support of lunar exploration missions.

Additional Constellation Program information may be found at <http://www.nasa.gov/constellation>.

The scoping meetings will begin with informal discussions with technical staff, followed by a brief presentation and an opportunity for oral public comments. Written comments

STEREO moved to launch pad for mating with Delta II

will be accepted anytime during the meeting, as well as anytime throughout the public scoping comment period that closes on Nov. 13.

■ **SGS Energy Office Celebrates October Energy Awareness Month** — Join the SGS Energy Management Office on Friday at the booth in the KSC HQ Lobby. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., office staffers will be giving away more than \$1,300 in energy savings! Enter the "Guess the KSC Electric Bill" contest (the energy folks will give you a hint) and you could win an LED flashlight that **never** needs batteries.

All entries are also included in a random drawing for packages of Long Life Energy Star ultra mini-spiral compact fluorescent light bulbs. Learn about the energy savings benefits of fluorescent lighting, programmable thermostats, motion sensors and Energy Star purchases. Bring your suggestions for energy-saving projects in your work area and tell the Energy Management office what you are doing to help KSC.

■ **Did You Know?** The second diabetes education seminar of the KSC Diabetes Education Series will be on Diabetes Drug Therapy. The hour-long seminar will be held at 11 a.m. on Nov. 8 in the O&C Mission Briefing Room. A guest speaker from CIMO Pharmacy will cover an overview of diabetes drug therapy management, including major classes of diabetes medications and new therapies. Badged health professionals are also invited to attend.

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

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