



KSC Countdown

Dec. 12, 2006

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 11, No. 89

Discovery docked, crew prepares for three spacewalks

Newest satellite to launch from Wallops Island in Virginia

◆ **Mission Update:** Docking of Discovery was scheduled for a little after 4 p.m. Monday. After the hatch opening and welcome, Mission Specialist Sunita Williams will become a member of the station's Expedition 14 crew and stay for the first half of Expedition 15. Flight Engineer Thomas Reiter, who joined Expedition 13 at its midway point and stayed for the first part of Expedition 14, will come home aboard Discovery.

Discovery's astronauts will check out the spacesuits to be used on three spacewalks outside the International Space Station. Mission Specialists Robert Curbeam and Christer Fuglesang will do the first two spacewalks, and Williams will join Curbeam for the third. The primary goal of the first spacewalk is to install the P5 segment of the station's main truss. The two subsequent spacewalks will focus on rewiring the station's electrical system, switching it from a temporary configuration to its permanent power grid.

◆ **ELV Update:** NASA's GeneSat-1 was set to launch into orbit on an Air Force rocket on Monday from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va. The launch, however, was postponed due to software issues.

GeneSat-1 is a 10-pound satellite that will carry bacteria inside a miniature laboratory to study how the microbes may respond in spaceflight. It is a secondary payload on an Air Force four-stage Minotaur 1 rocket

delivering the Air Force TacSat 2 satellite to orbit.

GeneSat-1's onboard micro-laboratory includes sensors and optical systems that can detect proteins that are the products of specific genetic activity. The GeneSat-1 ground control station at Ames will receive data radioed from the micro-laboratory after it has completed its observations and tests of the bacteria inside.

The biological test will last only 96 hours, but the GeneSat-1 team will evaluate the stability of the orbiting payload's systems for four months to a year. Air pressure, temperature and humidity are controlled aboard GeneSat-1. Light emitting diodes illuminate analytical sensors that help scientists detect genetic activity by measuring proteins that glow.

The knowledge gained from GeneSat-1 will help scientists understand how spaceflight affects the human body; specifically, the intestinal bacteria that help human beings digest food.

The new launch date for GENE-Sat-1 has not yet been determined.

■ **Full-Time Education Aide Wanted** — The KSC Child Development Center is looking for caring and committed individuals to work with children ages six weeks to five years old. Applicants must be 18 years of age. A Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and/or completion of state-mandated 40-hour introductory child care courses

is preferred, but will train the right person. We offer competitive pay and a pleasant working environment. For further information, please contact Ms. Lillieann Mazion at 867-5437 or fax resumes to 867-5420. Resumes must be received no later than close of business on Friday.

■ **Reminder** — Center Director Jim Kennedy invites all KSC civil service and contractor employees to join him Thursday for a holiday celebration at one of the following locations: Headquarters Lobby, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. or the OSB II Lobby, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For second- and third-shift employees, the celebration will also be at the OSB II Lobby from 10 to 11:30 p.m.

■ **Holiday Massage Discount** — Through Jan. 5, a 30-minute massage is only \$20. Gift certificates are available and make **great** holiday gifts. Contact Valerie, (L.M.T. #19362) at 867-4762 or e-mail Valerie.s.jaramillo@nasa.gov. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (hours are flexible) Monday – Friday, in the O&C Building/Room 1023.

■ **Did You Know?** You can stop by any NASA Exchange store and register for two free Orlando Magic tickets. The tickets are good for the game at 7 p.m. on Dec. 22 against the Golden State Warriors, Section 116/ Row L/Seats 1&2. Register as many times as you like. Drawing will be Friday at 4 p.m.

