

Atlantis, Endeavour to power down for holidays

◆ **Shuttle Update:** On *Atlantis*, orbiter powered testing was scheduled to start Monday. Dome heat shield installation continues. Holiday power-down is expected Wednesday. On *Endeavour*, power-up was scheduled Monday. FRCS electrical connects were completed Dec. 17 and interface verification testing was scheduled for Monday. *Endeavour's* holiday power-down was also scheduled for Wednesday.

◆ **ISS Update:** On the space station, transfer of equipment and supplies between the spacecraft is almost complete. Crew members and flight controllers planned for the last bit of transfer to include tools and equipment remaining after the final spacewalk Monday. That work is set to be completed before *Discovery* undocks from the station Tuesday afternoon.

Discovery is scheduled to land at KSC at 3:56 p.m. on Friday.

■ **Volunteers Needed for FIRST Robotics Competition** — The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Competition will have its annual kickoff on Jan. 6. The teams of high school students and mentors must design and build a robot and solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules.

Volunteers from KSC are **desperately** needed to serve as mentors for students. This will require a few



hours after work and on weekends. Anyone with the desire to inspire, create and work with high school students is welcome to join, but mentors possessing the following skills are especially needed: mechanical engineers (highest priority); electrical engineers - wiring, circuit design, etc.; computer engineers - animation/Web design; machining - both cam and manual; C programming; and communications/outreach.

■ **Contractor Participation at PM Challenge 2007** — The NASA Project Management Challenge 2007 conference will be held Feb. 6-7 at the Moody Gardens Hotel & Convention Center in Galveston, Texas. NASA can only collect registration

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fees from NASA civil servants. However, contractors can participate in the NASA PM Challenge speaker tracks, discussion panels, case studies, and general/keynote sessions by registering for the industry-hosted "PM Challenge EXPO." For more information, please visit: <http://www.pmx2007.info>.

■ **Help KSC/CCAFS Save Energy Dollars This Upcoming Holiday** — It takes commitment from everyone at Spaceport to help KSC and CCAFS save energy dollars; therefore, please remember to:

- Turn off your computer, monitor and printer (if not required to remain on).
- Turn off the lights in your office when you are the last person to leave.
- Turn off the hall and hall closet lights on your way out if you are the last person to leave your area in the building.
- Turn off displays and decorative lights.
- Turn off or unplug any appliances in the office, such as coffee makers, desk lamps, fans, radios, etc.
- Turn off the copier machines (including in hallways) and scanners.
- Close the blinds on all windows.

■ **Did You Know?** The KSC Countdown will be on hiatus the week of Dec. 25 and will return on Jan. 4.