



KSC Countdown

Jan. 25, 2007

www.nasa.gov

Vol. 12, No. 06

Mating of THEMIS to upper stage booster set for Monday



◆ **ELV Update:** At the Astrotech payload processing facility, engineers and

technicians successfully completed spin-balance testing (above) of THEMIS on Jan. 12. The prelaunch processing of the spacecraft is now finished. THEMIS awaits mating to the upper stage booster, scheduled for Monday. The spacecraft will then be installed into its transportation canister and moved to Launch Complex 17 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station for mating with the Delta II on Feb. 2. The payload fairing was lifted into the mobile service tower on Tuesday.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA will preview an unprecedented series of four spacewalks to be conducted from the International Space Station during the next month in a media briefing scheduled for Friday. The briefing will air live on NASA Television at 2 p.m. EST and be streamed on the Internet at <http://www.nasa.gov>.

The briefing will originate from NASA's Johnson Space Center and will include questions from media representatives from NASA locations.

Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria and Flight Engineer Suni Williams will begin the series of spacewalks with a six-and-a-half-hour excursion on Jan. 31 and subsequent spacewalks on Feb. 4 and 8. Those three spacewalks will be con-

ducted using U.S. spacesuits and will each start from the station's Quest airlock. The fourth spacewalk, scheduled for later in February, will be conducted by Lopez-Alegria and Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin using Russian spacesuits from the station's Pirs airlock.

The U.S. spacewalks will bring online new portions of the station's cooling system, expanded with components that were activated during a space shuttle mission in December. Lopez-Alegria and Williams also will assist in the retraction of heat-rejecting radiators on the station's P6 truss, install some external devices to stow cargo, and install cabling for a new power transfer system for future shuttle flights, among other tasks. On the fourth spacewalk, Lopez-Alegria and Tyurin will remove a stuck antenna from the Russian ISS Progress 23 cargo spacecraft docked to the aft end of the station. Removing the antenna will ensure it can safely undock in early April.

Coverage of the Jan. 31 spacewalk on NASA TV will begin at 9 a.m. EST. Coverage of the Feb. 4 and 8 spacewalks will begin at 7:30 a.m. EST. Media briefings will follow the conclusion of each spacewalk and also will air on NASA TV and the agency's home page.

■ **Buy One, Get One Free Concert Tickets** — The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra extends its ticket offer for the upcoming concert "Ce-

NASA previews ISS spacewalks in on-air briefing Friday

lestial Miracles," being held at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center in Orlando. All KSC, CCAFS and Patrick AFB employees and their families are eligible for this offer. Mention the "buy one ticket, get one ticket free" offer when calling the box office for tickets at 407-770-0071. The program will feature two stellar favorites: Mozart's Symphony No. 41 (the "Jupiter" Symphony) and Gustav Hoist's most famous work, "The Planets."

■ **Keeping KSC Safe** — The best way to prevent mishaps is to identify and eliminate unsafe conditions or hazards. Some examples are ripped or frayed carpet, a missing cover plate on a light switch, and faded crosswalk paint. Report such findings, or others you might find, to your supervisor and/or the appropriate trouble-call organization. For more information, contact Alan Zoellner, SA-E2, 867-7554.

■ **Did You Know?** Appointments for massages are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday in room 1023 in the O&C Building. To schedule an appointment, contact Valerie (L.M.T. #19362) at 867-4762 or send an e-mail to JaramVS@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov. Massages are \$1 per minute. Gift certificates and discounted packages are also available. If you have any questions pertaining to scheduling, types of massages offered, or any other issues, please call Valerie at 867-4762.