



KSC Countdown

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RSS rotates after two years of pad upgrades

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Early this week, the rotating service structure on Pad 39A was moved in anticipation of the launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis on mission STS-117. The RSS has not been rotated for more than a year due to pad maintenance and upgrades.

Endeavour remains in Orbiter Processing Facility bay 2, and technicians continue preparing the vehicle for its first launch in just over four years, for mission STS-118 targeted for June 28.

Technicians have installed Endeavour's three space shuttle main engines and on Jan. 23, the right-hand orbital maneuvering system pod was moved into the bay. Inspections then began in preparation for the pod to be installed on the vehicle Tuesday.

Tile installations continue around the nose landing gear door to support the landing gear functional test.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA has assigned the crew for space shuttle mission STS-123. The flight will deliver both the first component of the Japanese Experiment Module Kibo and the new Canadian Dextre robotics system to the International Space Station.

Dominic L. Gorie will command the Space Shuttle Endeavour on the STS-123 mission, targeted for launch in December. Gregory H. Johnson will serve as the pilot. Mission Specialists will be NASA astronauts Richard M. Linnehan, Robert L. Behnken and Michael J. Foreman.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Takao Doi also will serve as a mission specialist.

Foreman had been assigned to the STS-120 shuttle mission but has been reassigned to STS-123. Astronaut Stephanie Wilson, who flew on last year's STS-121 mission, will replace Foreman as a mission specialist on STS-120, targeted for launch in September.

STS-123 is the first in a series of flights that will launch components to complete the Kibo laboratory. The mission also will deliver the Canadian Space Agency's Dextre robotic system, a smaller manipulator equipped with two arms and designed to work with Canadarm2 to perform finer maintenance tasks that normally would be accomplished with spacewalks by astronauts on the International Space Station. The mission will include four spacewalks to install the new hardware.

■ **28th Annual Training Program: "Invest a FEW Hours for a Better You!"** — The Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) invites employees to attend its one-day annual training program on Feb. 28, repeated on March 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn. An interesting and informative program includes Janie Walters from Madison, Miss., to conduct the morning session entitled "Normal is Gone and It Won't be Back (Coping with

NASA names new crew for December launch

and Embracing Change)." The afternoon offers break-out sessions with four topics to choose from: A. "Changing of the Guard" – J. Leigh Moore of Atlanta; B. "Discover Your Positive Strengths and Improve Workplace Opportunities" – Dr. Wanda Bethea of Melbourne; C. "No More Excuses: Take Charge of Your Career" – Nancy J. Lewis of Fayetteville, Ga.; or D. "Dream Book and Strong Women, Powerful Financial Strategies Seminar" – Ameriprise representative of Orlando, Fla.

The cost this year is still \$99 per participant and parking is free. Space Coast Chapter will provide a complimentary continental breakfast and lunch. Registration packages will be mailed to Kennedy Space Center training coordinators very soon. A completed form must be submitted for each attendee or you may use the group registration form for four or more attendees.

All registration forms and payment or purchase orders are due by Feb. 16. If you need further information, please call or e-mail Registration Committee members Becky Fasulo at 321-636-8525 or beckyjf@yahoo.com, or Karin Biega at 321-784-2890 or canprops@bellsouth.net.

■ **Did You Know?** The "Ask a Question" feature is now available to NASA employees in the "Administrator's Corner" on the Inside NASA Web site at: <http://insidenasa.nasa.gov>.