



# countdown

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## Payload ready in Endeavour, testing ongoing on other orbiters



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

On Sunday, the STS-118 payload was installed in **Endeavour's** payload bay on Launch Pad 39A.

In Orbiter Processing Facility bay No. 3, check-out of the flash evaporator

system heater is complete on **Discovery**. Testing of the engine cutoff sensor system, payload pre-mate testing and rigging of the latching mechanism for the orbiter boom sensor system are all under way. Two of the three engines were scheduled for installation this past weekend.

Stacking of the STS-120 solid rocket boosters in the Vehicle Assembly Building is scheduled to begin this week.

On **Atlantis**, in Orbiter Processing Facility bay No. 1, overall inspection of the orbiter's thermal protection system is about 80 percent complete. This includes thermography inspection of the left and right wing reinforced carbon-carbon panels, along with the chin panel and nose cap. The main landing gear tires have been removed, the strongbacks were installed on the payload bay doors, and the doors have been opened.

The forward reaction control system thruster and vernier inspection began last week, as did removal of the main engine dome heat shields. Preparations for engine removal are under way.

**Road Work** — The Indian River Bridge will be reduced to one lane of traffic from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday for repairs.

◆ **ELV Update:** Engineers successfully performed the spin testing of Phoenix last week. Mating of Phoenix to the upper-stage booster was scheduled for **today**. Final installation of the heat shield onto the cruise stage will occur Wednesday. Phoenix will be transported to Pad 17-A on CCAFS and mated to the Delta II on July 23.

■ **NASA To Learn From Apollo Veterans** — The Apollo panel discussion with retired engineers to be held Friday will air on public, education and media channels on the dates and times below. The engineers will share lessons learned with current NASA employees working on the Constellation Program, which will return humans to the moon by 2020.

- ◆ Friday: 4, 7 and 10 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday: 10 a.m., 1, 4, 7 and 10 p.m.

■ **NASA Science News** — A pair of robots named ASTRO and NextSat have been working together in Earth orbit, docking, undocking, flying around and refueling, as if they have minds of their own. Their adventures may herald a revolution in the way we explore space. Read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/06jul\\_astroandnextsat.htm?list947891](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/06jul_astroandnextsat.htm?list947891).

■ **STS-117 Crew Return Presentation** — Please welcome back the crew of STS-117 after their very successful mission! All employees are invited to attend the STS-117 crew return visit on Wednesday. The presentation will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the OSB II, room 5109. Seating is available on a first come, first

## Phoenix in final stages for move to pad 17-A

served basis, so arrive early! If you have any questions, please contact Layla Higgins at [layla.m.higgins@nasa.gov](mailto:layla.m.higgins@nasa.gov).

■ **FREE Showing of "In the Shadow of the Moon" for Employees July 20** — NASA and THINKFilm have partnered to offer two complimentary employee viewings of In The Shadow Of The Moon on Friday at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Astronaut Encounter Theater. The film, presented by Ron Howard, brings together surviving crew members from every single Apollo mission that flew to the moon, and allows them to tell their story in their own words.

This unique screening opportunity for KSC and CCAFS badged employees is in commemoration of the 38th anniversary of the first moon landing. Showings will be at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. and are limited to 300 seats per event. Tickets are available at Exchange Stores on a first come, first served basis. Contact the NASA Public Services Division at 867-7711 if you have any questions.

■ **Reminder** — The deadline to submit a slogan for the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign is **tomorrow**. Go to the [CFC Slogan Web site](#) to enter. For more information, call Patty Hepburn, 867-2527, or Elizabeth Rodriguez, 867-9166.

*Countdown* is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at [nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html](http://nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html).