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## NASA Web to feature prelaunch, launch updates

## Crew for October launch at KSC for training

◆ **Launch Updates On Web:** A prelaunch webcast, live blogs, podcasts, pictures and videos highlight NASA's Web coverage of Space Shuttle Endeavour's STS-118 mission to the International Space Station. NASA will provide updates online at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>. A live webcast featuring astronaut Joan Higginbotham, who flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery in December 2006, will start the in-depth coverage of the mission at 11:30 a.m. today. A blog will update the countdown continuously, beginning about six hours before the 6:36 p.m. liftoff of Endeavour on Wednesday.

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Mission STS-120 is targeted for launch no earlier than Oct. 20. The crew was at KSC on Friday for a CEIT, or crew equipment interface test. They spent much of their time in OPF bay 3 inspecting the thermal protection system on Discovery, practicing with the cameras they will use to photograph Discovery while on orbit, handling some of the tools they will use and inspecting the windows on the orbiter. Seen below are Mission Specialists Scott Parazynski, Doug Wheelock and Paolo Nespoli (with ESA) examining tools.



[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

■ **Prelaunch Advisory** — All employees should be aware that a potential for deposition of solid rocket motor exhaust during the launch of Space Shuttle Endeavour exists under certain meteorological conditions. Because of its acidic nature, the residue may be mildly irritating to the skin and contact should be avoided. Please take appropriate action to protect your property and avoid contact with exhaust cloud products. If you observe residue on your personal vehicle or assigned government vehicle, you should wash it off as soon as possible.

■ **NASA News** — NASA has selected four proposals focusing on astrophysics priorities in lunar science to facilitate the nation's exploration program. The proposed studies are part of a NASA effort to develop new opportunities to conduct important science investigations during the planned renewal of human exploration of the moon.

The newly announced proposals for concept studies may lead to experiments placed on the moon that would allow for unprecedented tests of Einstein's general theory of relativity, instruments to probe the early evolution of structure in the universe, and observation of X-rays produced by the charged particles the sun emits, known as the solar wind. Instruments based on these concept studies also would provide unique information on the interior structure of the moon and on Earth-moon interactions.

Two concept studies propose to place suitcase-sized instruments at various locations on the moon so the distance from the Earth to the moon can be determined to the submillimeter level. These obser-

vations will yield a wealth of science, including precision tests of general relativity and greater understanding of the structure of the moon and Earth-moon interactions.

A third concept study proposes to place a small radio telescope array on the moon to study particle acceleration in celestial objects such as supernovae, quasars and the solar corona. It also will serve as a pathfinder for a possible future radio telescope to measure the growth of structure in the early universe. The study is "Radio Observatory for Lunar Sortie Science" from the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington. Joseph Lazio is principal investigator.

The fourth project will measure X-ray emissions caused by the solar wind and its interactions with Earth's magnetosphere. It also will help improve future measurements of low-energy X-ray emission from our galaxy. "Lunar-Based Soft X-ray Science" is the study from Goddard Space Flight Center. Michael Collier is principal investigator.

■ **Mark Your Calendars For The PM Challenge Call For Speakers** — Speaker abstracts and biographies are due Sept. 14. You can download the speaker requirements from the Web site: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/Speaker2008.htm>.

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