



## Endeavour home; next mission in October is new focus

◆ **Mission Finale:** With its safe return to KSC Tuesday, Endeavour completed the 119th space shuttle flight, the 22nd flight to the station, the 20th flight for Endeavour and the second of four missions planned for 2007.



Despite his interest in seeing the damaged tile, Commander Scott Kelly (at far left in the photo) commented during the post-landing news conference, "I was a little bit underwhelmed by the size of the gouge. To see it, it looked rather small."

The stage is now set for the next phase of International Space Station assembly. Preparations continue for Space Shuttle Discovery's targeted launch in October on the STS-120 mission to deliver the pressurized Node 2 connecting module to the station.

◆ **NASA News:** NASA will host a news conference at 4 p.m. on Aug. 28 to announce the selection of a contractor for the upper-stage element of the Ares I rocket that will help launch future human missions to the moon. The Ares I will carry to low-Earth orbit the Orion crew exploration vehicle, which will succeed the space shuttle as NASA's primary vehicle for human space exploration. The Ares I upper stage will provide the navigation, guidance, control and propulsion required for the second stage of the rocket's ascent. The Ares I first stage will consist of a single solid rocket booster and motor similar to those used on the space shuttle, with the addition of a fifth

motor segment.

Deputy Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Doug Cooke, Constellation Program Manager Jeff Hanley, Ares Project Manager Steve Cook and Upper-Stage Element Manager Danny Davis will announce the selection and discuss the program. The news conference will air live on the Web and on NASA Television.

### ■ **Course For The Future** —

Whether on Earth, during liftoff and ascent flight, or on orbit, a launch vehicle or spacecraft is constantly subject to forces from its environment, both static and changing. The NASA Engineering and Safety Center, or NESC, Academy announces open registration for its new course exploring loads and dynamics, the forces and responses that affect spacecraft throughout their performance lives.

Understanding loads and dynamics is critical to NASA's mission, one that includes safe and reliable human and robotic space travel and air transportation systems. To promote this understanding, the academy will offer a three-day classroom course Dec. 4-6 in Houston titled, "Loads and Dynamics: Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future."

More information about the upcoming knowledge-sharing course, including registration dates, will be posted at the NESC Academy [Web site](#). The NESC Academy invites you to visit the site regularly for updates about future classroom and online courses.

■ **Healthy Feet For A Firm Foundation** — The latest RehabWorks educational lecture will focus on the various

## Builder of Ares I rocket subject of news conference

injuries of the foot and ankle such as sprained ankles, plantar fasciitis, Achilles tendonitis and heel pain, plus proper shoe/sneaker selection, balance problems, strength and agility training and proper protective braces. The hourlong lecture is being held at 10 a.m. today in HQ/room 2201. For more information, please call Erik Nason at 867-7497 or e-mail [Erik.T.Nason@nasa.gov](mailto:Erik.T.Nason@nasa.gov).

■ **Reminder** — The closing date for submitting speaker proposals for the NASA PM Challenge 2008 is **Sept. 14**. For more details, go to the Web site: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/Speaker2008.htm>. The PM Challenge will be held Feb. 26-27, 2008, in Daytona Beach. The event is sponsored by the NASA Office of the Chief Engineer, the NASA Academy of Program/Project & Engineering Leadership, and the NASA Office of Safety & Mission Assurance.

■ **NASA Science** — Earth and Mars are rapidly converging. Relative speed: 22,000 mph. Contrary to rumor, Mars is not about to swell to the size of a full moon, but there will be something eerie and Martian to look for in the night sky next week. Ultimately, this will lead to a close approach in late December when Mars will outshine every star in the night sky. Read the full story at the [Web site](#).

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