



countdown

October 4, 2007

Vol. 12, No. 72

Two mission crews back-to-back to practice for launch

◆ **Shuttle Update:** The STS-122 crew was at Kennedy last week for a crew equipment interface test, becoming familiar with hardware and equipment for their mission. They spent much time in the Space Station Processing Facility checking out the Columbus Laboratory (photo below), which they will install on the International Space Station.



The lab will be permanently attached to the Harmony module, also known as Node 2, on the space station to carry out experiments in materials science, fluid physics and biosciences, as well as to perform a number of technological applications. It is Europe's largest contribution to the construction of the International Space Station and will support scientific and technological research in a micro-gravity environment. STS-122 is targeted to launch on Dec. 6.

■ **NASA Television Today** — At 3 p.m., see a video file of Sputnik 50th anniversary events in Moscow, as well as prelaunch activities of the Expedition 16 crew and spaceflight participant crew in Baikonur.

NASA seeks ideas for new spacesuit system

On Sunday, the STS-120 crew will arrive at KSC for terminal countdown demonstration test activities, preparing for the upcoming launch targeted for Oct. 23. Read and see more of the test in next week's *Countdown*.

◆ **NASA Update:** NASA has issued a request for proposals from industry for the design, development and production of a new spacesuit system for Constellation Program voyages to the International Space Station and the moon.

The Constellation spacesuit system contract is for design, development, test, evaluation and production of equipment to support astronauts aboard the Orion crew exploration vehicle. Orion will carry astronauts on trips to explore the moon and support the space station in the next decade. NASA expects to award the contract in June 2008.

The suit and support systems will enable protection against spacecraft cabin leaks and provide contingency spacewalk capability. For short lunar exploration sorties, the suit also must support a week's worth of moonwalks in one-sixth gravity. Potentially, the system will support multiple spacewalks during six-month lunar outpost stays. Suits and support systems will be needed for as many as four moon voyagers per trip or six space station travelers.

To view the request for Constellation spacesuit system proposals, visit: <http://procurement.jsc.nasa.gov/csss>.

■ **Did You Know?** The *Countdown* will not be published on Oct. 9 due to the Columbus Day holiday.



■ **Fastest Runners/Walkers in the Intercenter Run** — Congratulations to all those who ran, walked or rolled in the annual

Intercenter Run held Sept. 25. The top times were posted by *Arthur Beller* and *Diane Bent* (2-mile walk), *Charles Pedrick* and *Kristin Kelley* (2-mile run), *Frank Kapr* and *Danielle Ford* (5K run) and *Kudo Hiraku* and *Sandra Gannon* (10K run). In all, 330 KSC and CCAFS employees participated, including four rollerbladers.

■ **Reminder** — The SunDay Challenge event Oct 6 - 8 showcases and promotes alternative energy technologies to power vehicles. Vehicles powered by electricity, solar, ethanol, biomass, biodiesel, hydrogen, natural gas, propane and other renewable energy sources will compete.

The three-day event, which begins at The Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, will consist of performance testing, autocross, road rally and workshops. All are welcome to this educational event. For more information, go to the Web site: <http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/media/event/sundaychallenge>.

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. 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.