



countdown

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Review today will decide Discovery's launch date

◆ **Shuttle Update:** At Launch Pad 39A, the hypergolic propellants have been loaded into **Discovery's** solid rocket booster hydraulic power units, as well as into the orbital maneuvering system, forward reaction control system and auxiliary power units. Last Thursday, the rotating service structure at the pad was rotated away from Discovery to allow for the auxiliary power unit hotfire, which was successfully completed. The rotating service structure was returned to the mate position later that day. Orbiter aft closeout work is underway.

Yesterday, ordnance were installed and connected.

An agency-level flight readiness review will take place today and an official launch date for Discovery's STS-120 mission will be decided.

In Orbiter Processing Facility bay No. 1, midbody closeout and inspection work is complete on **Atlantis** and the payload bay doors were closed for roll-over. Workers continue to close out and inspect the forward and aft sections. The landing gear functional test was successfully performed.

In the Vehicle Assembly Building, processing continues on ET-125, the external fuel tank for mission STS-122. Repairs to the liquid oxygen feedline support bracket foam are complete and access platforms have been removed. In high bay No. 3, stacking of the solid rocket boosters is finished. **Atlantis** is targeted for launch on Dec. 6.

In Orbiter Processing Facility bay No. 2, window No. 1 was removed and replaced last week on **Endeavour**, and the removal and replacement of window

No. 6 is in progress. The external airlock upper hatch functional test is complete.

Endeavour's next mission is STS-123, targeted for launch on Feb. 14.

◆ **ISS Update:** This week, the Expedition 15 crew is handing over operation of the orbiting laboratory to the Expedition 16 crew, led by Commander Peggy Whitson, the first woman to lead a long-duration spaceflight on the International Space Station. Expedition 15 Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and Flight Engineer Oleg Kotov will complete their six-month stay aboard the station and return to Earth in a Soyuz spacecraft on Sunday.

NASA astronaut and Flight Engineer Clayton Anderson, who has been on the station since June, will remain aboard and become part of the Expedition 16 crew.

During Expedition 16, Whitson and Malenchenko will be joined by Expedition 16 flight engineers Dan Tani, Leopold Eyharts of the European Space Agency and Garrett Reisman.

■ **SGS Energy Office Celebrates 2007 Energy Awareness Month** —

"Clean and Green...For a Secure Energy Future" is the theme for Energy Awareness Month. Join the SGS Energy Management Office on Wednesday at their booth in the O&C Lobby to celebrate. From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., more than \$1,000 in energy savings will be given away! Enter your name in the drawing for packages of long-life, energy-saving, ultra-mini spiral lamps (60-watt light output using only 14 watts of power).

Station gets Whitson, first woman commander

Learn about the energy-saving benefits of fluorescent lighting, programmable thermostats, motion sensors and Energy Star products. Bring your suggestions for energy-saving projects in your work area and tell the Energy Management Office what you are doing to help KSC conserve energy. Be sure to enter the contest to "Guess the KSC October 2007 Electric Bill."

■ **Education Opportunity** — Warner Southern College in Melbourne and Titusville is offering a bachelor degree program in organizational management at its Titusville location. The format of the program is for adult students who apply their professional learning to the coursework. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings and one Saturday per month for 16 months. Warner Southern also offers associate and master's programs. Please call 321-254-4096 or 321-751-4665 for details.



■ **RehabWorks** —

The next program in the series will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Oct. 25 in the O&C/ Room 1055. The topic is "Youth, Sports and Exercise: What You Need To Know."

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jpsc.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.