



countdown

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Tanking test today on Atlantis takes close look at ECO sensors

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Shuttle program managers decided to target Jan. 10 to launch the STS-122 mission.

At Launch Pad 39A, preparations continue for a tanking test **today** to troubleshoot the engine cut-off, or ECO, sensors on space shuttle **Atlantis**. Test wiring has been spliced into an electrical harness in the aft main engine compartment connected with the ECO sensor system. The attached wiring leads to the interior of the mobile launcher platform where the time domain reflectometry, or TDR, test equipment is located.

On Dec. 12 in the Vehicle Assembly Building, the TDR was connected to the external tank to be used for STS-123. This allowed a "dry" ambient temperature signature to be identified.

On Friday in Kennedy Space Center's cryogenic test bed facility, TDR instrumentation was exposed to "wet" super-cold temperatures for identifying the signature of a cryogenic environment and calibrating the TDR equipment. On Saturday, the TDR was installed at the launch pad.

In Orbiter Processing Facility bay No. 2, orbiter closeouts for **Endeavour's** rollover to the Vehicle Assembly Building continue. Main landing gear brake installation and final Ku-band self testing and cable unwrapping are complete.

In high bay No. 1 of the VAB, booster integration activities continue. Stacking and joint closeouts are complete.

Preps for external tank mating resumed on Monday following Friday's external tank/solid rocket booster mate review. Final payload bay door closure

for rollover to the VAB is complete.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA Television will provide simultaneous live coverage of a spacewalk by the International Space Station crew and the shuttle fueling test at Kennedy **today**. Expedition 16 Station Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Dan Tani were set to venture outside the station at about 6 a.m. to perform a detailed inspection of a giant rotary joint where contamination was found last month. The joint is used to rotate the starboard solar arrays of the complex to face the sun.

The astronauts also will devote part of the spacewalk to an inspection of a device that tilts the starboard arrays toward the sun. The device, known as a Beta Gimbal Assembly, experienced unrelated electrical problems last weekend.

NASA TV's public channel began coverage of spacewalk activities at 4:30 a.m. A briefing will follow the spacewalk, originating from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston no earlier than 1:30 p.m. The briefing participants are Mike Suffredini, International Space Station Program manager; Ginger Kerrick, station spacewalk flight director; and Tomas Gonzalez-Torres, station spacewalk officer.

■ **Spaceport News Wants Your Feedback, Photos** — *Spaceport News* will launch a new look Jan. 11, offering Kennedy Space Center employees a biweekly publication designed to better suit their needs. Each issue will strive to offer more news that directly impacts the work force, while highlighting people and

Space station crew on spacewalk to look at rotary joint

places that make up America's gateway to the universe.

You are encouraged to send unique story ideas and exciting photos of workers in action for possible publication. Photos should include a short caption with the names and job titles of those pictured, from left to right, and be at least 300 dpi. Please include a point of contact's e-mail address and/or phone number. Send e-mail to *KSC-Spaceport-News@mail.nasa.gov*.

■ **NASA PM Challenge 2008 Registration Is Now Open** — Share your knowledge of project management, safety, systems engineering, communications, team building, lessons learned, engineering management, acquisition, leadership and other topics with your NASA colleagues at the agency's fifth PM Challenge conference in Daytona Beach on Feb. 26-27. Register online at: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov/registration2008.htm>. Registration closes Jan. 31. For full conference details, go to <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov>.



■ **Last Day For Countdown in 2007** — Thursday will be the last issue of *Countdown* this year. Publication will resume Jan. 8.

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