



# countdown

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## Atlantis nears new target launch date of Feb. 7



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

Installation of **Atlantis'** engine cutoff (ECO) sensor external connector replacement hardware was completed

Sunday. Meanwhile, testing of the ECO sensor system connector hardware continues at Marshall Space Flight Center. Space shuttle main engine ball seal leak checks were performed Jan. 10 with no issues. The solid rocket booster hydraulic retest took place Jan. 11. The target date for launch of Atlantis is now Feb. 7.

On **Endeavour**, the orbiter galley functional checks were completed Jan. 11 with no issues. Removal and replacement work will take place this week on the purge, vent and drain valve, which is part of the non-breathing air conditioning system. The main landing gear struts' weight on wheels leak check was scheduled for Monday. The external tank and solid rocket boosters for the STS-123 launch were mated on Jan. 10 in the VAB.

On **Discovery**, the thermal control system checkout was completed with no anomalies. Drag chute alignment and installation were completed Jan. 10. Space shuttle main engine No. 1 liquid oxygen transducer leak checks were also performed that day.

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA will hold a media briefing at 2 p.m. today with the next resident crew of the International Space Station and a South Korean spaceflight participant.

The briefing will originate from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Hous-

ton, and be broadcast live on NASA Television. The briefing participants are Expedition 17 crew members:

- ◆ Flight Engineer and NASA astronaut Gregory Chamitoff
- ◆ Flight Engineer and NASA astronaut Sandy Magnus
- ◆ Flight Engineer and NASA astronaut Garrett Reisman
- ◆ Commander and Russian cosmonaut Sergei Volkov
- ◆ Flight Engineer and Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko

Also in the briefing will be South Korean spaceflight participant Ko San, who will fly to the complex under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency.

Reisman will fly there on mission STS-123, which is targeted to launch in March. Chamitoff will replace Reisman on the station and is scheduled to launch on the STS-124 mission in April. Magnus will join the Expedition 17 crew in the fall and replace Chamitoff.

Volkov, Kononenko and Ko San will launch to the station April 8 aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. Ko San will return to Earth with Expedition 16 Commander Peggy Whitson and Flight Engineer Yuri Malenchenko April 19 in a Soyuz.

■ **SWE Announces Scholarship Program** — The Space Coast section of the Society of Women Engineers announces its annual scholarship program. The SWE scholarship programs are broadcast to Brevard, Indian River and Volusia high school science specialists and guidance counselors in the fall. One or more schol-

## NASA to air briefing by space station's Expedition 17 crew

arships will be awarded annually to graduating high school women residing and schooled in those counties who select majors in engineering, mathematics and/or computer science. The scholarship(s) will be awarded based on scholarship merit and demonstrated leadership. Applications are due Jan. 31. Please direct any questions to Judy Kersey, 321-783-4644. For information about the SWE, go to [www.swe-sc.org/](http://www.swe-sc.org/).

### ■ January Cardiovascular Disease Screening

— The screening will be held from 7 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday at the Occupational Health Facility at Kennedy. The two-page questionnaire forms can be picked up at any medical facility or the forms can be downloaded from the SGS home page/forms at <http://kscboc-forms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010V2.itr>. This form can be filled out online and then printed. In addition, the forms can be printed from a PDF version at <http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/heart.cfm>. Please be sure to answer all the questions on the forms and print each page separately. You must fast for 12 hours prior to the screening (nothing but water). If you have any questions, please call 867-3414.



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