



countdown

January 17, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 04

Prelaunch work on Atlantis continues on the pad



◆ Shuttle Update:

At Launch Pad 39A, now that the engine cut-off sensor electrical connector has been re-installed into the external tank of space shuttle Atlantis, technicians are reapplying the foam insulation. Also, test equipment and the associated wiring used during the tanking test is being removed from the mobile launcher platform and the orbiter's aft main engine compartment. A final end-to-end test of the sensor's electrical system is being performed today. Aft main engine compartment closeouts are scheduled to begin on Friday. STS-122 is targeted for launch at 2:45 p.m. on Feb. 7.

◆ **NASA News Update:** NASA's Constellation Program has released a broad agency announcement for study proposals to evaluate human landing craft concepts for exploring the moon.

The Altair spacecraft will deliver four astronauts to the lunar surface late in the next decade. NASA plans to establish an outpost on the moon through a sustainable and affordable series of lunar missions beginning no later than 2020.

NASA is seeking responses in two primary areas before the release of a prime contract for lunar lander design, development, test and evaluation. Those areas include an evaluation of NASA's current developmental concept and innovative safety improvements, and recommendations for industry-government partnerships.

This broad agency announcement is open to industry for 30 days from the is-

sue date of Jan. 11. NASA expects to award study contracts in the first quarter of 2008.

■ **STS-107 Remembrance Service** — NASA Television will provide live coverage of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation's remembrance service honoring space shuttle Columbia's STS-107 crew. The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at the Space Mirror Memorial on the NASA Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex on Feb. 1, the fifth anniversary of the Columbia accident.

Speakers at the memorial include NASA Administrator Michael Griffin; Evelyn Husband-Thompson, widow of Colonel Rick Husband; Kennedy Space Center Director Bill Parsons; NASA Associate Administrator for Space Operations William Gerstenmaier; Shuttle Commander for the Return to Flight mission, STS-114, Eileen Collins; Shuttle Commander and former NASA Associate Administrator for Space Operations William Readdy, and G. Madhavan Nair, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization. Astronauts Memorial Foundation President Stephen Feldman will lead the service.

For more information, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2008/jan/HQ_M08011_NASA_TV_Columbia_Remembrance.html.

■ **Space Coast SWE Seeking Applications for Women Engineer of the Year** — Applications for the Space Coast Outstanding Women Engineers of the Year Awards program are due to the Society of Women Engineers at award-schair@swe-sc.org no later than Monday.

NASA seeks proposals for lunar landers

(Please ensure you consult and follow your organization's award submission process and the submittal schedule.) No extensions will be given beyond Monday. Details for award submission are on the Web at www.swe-sc.org/Award.

The awards banquet will be held Feb. 26 at the Rockledge Country Club. Reservation information will be available at www.swe-sc.org on Feb. 1. Please refer questions to Patty Ruddell at 861-3000.

■ **New Year Walking Group** — To help with your physical activity plan for the new year, the Health Education and Wellness Program is lead-



ing a walking group from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during January. The group walks around the O&C Fitness Trail (located in front of the O&C Building – Industrial Area). As an extra incentive, the new Nordic walking poles will be available for walkers to use. If you would like a set of walking poles to use, please come to the O&C Fitness Center by 10:50 a.m. to get set up. All walkers will meet at the east bridge at the SE corner of the O&C parking lot at 11 a.m. The group will be canceled for the day if it rains during walking time.

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.