



countdown

February 28, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 15

Friday news conference sets launch date



◆ Shuttle Update:

NASA managers have scheduled a news conference at Kennedy at 2 p.m. on Friday to discuss the status of the

upcoming space shuttle mission. The news conference will begin after the conclusion of the flight readiness review, a two-day meeting to assess preparations for shuttle Endeavour's STS-123 mission. The Feb. 28-29 review will include the selection of an official launch date for Endeavour's voyage to the International Space Station.

The briefing participants are Associate Administrator for Space Operations Bill Gerstenmaier, Space Shuttle Program Manager John Shannon and Space Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach. Last week, NASA announced John Shannon would succeed Wayne Hale as the Space Shuttle Program manager. Hale has been named NASA's deputy associate administrator for strategic partnerships.

The shuttle mission briefing will be broadcast live on NASA Television and the agency's Web site.

◆ **ELV Update:** In preparation for launch at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station last week, workers weighed the Delta II second stage for the GLAST (Gamma-Ray Large Area Space Telescope). The telescope will be launched May 16 from Launch Pad 17-B at Cape Canaveral in a window extending from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. EDT.

GLAST will have the ability to detect gamma rays in a range of energies from thousands to hundreds of billions of

times more energetic than the light visible to the human eye. Radiation of such magnitude can only be generated under the most extreme conditions, thus GLAST will focus on studying the most energetic objects and phenomena in the universe.

■ **How NASA Improves Life on Earth** — NASA has added to its Web site an interactive program, "NASA at Home and NASA City," that allows users to discover some of the many NASA technologies that positively impact everyday life. To view the program, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/mmgallery/index.html>.

■ **Florida Space Day March 6** — An annual event, Florida Space Day is an opportunity for elected officials to feature Florida's space-related businesses and programs. This year's event in Tallahassee will highlight special space exhibits and appearances by NASA astronauts.

During the daylong event, representatives from Florida's \$43.9 billion aerospace industry are meeting with Florida legislative leaders at the state capitol to advocate for Florida's space industry and the state's economic success. Aerospace is the third largest economic industry in Florida with an economic presence in 46 of the state's 67 counties.



■ **Education Opportunity** — The University of Florida Outreach Engineering Management, or OEM, Program will host open house sessions from 5 to 7 p.m. on March

GLAST Delta second stage prepped for buildup

11 at the Radisson Resort at the Port, located at 8701 Astronaut Blvd. in Cape Canaveral. OEM classes are held off-campus in Orlando, providing busy working professionals with the opportunity to obtain an engineering master's degree from a highly ranked university with no career interruption.

Classes meet only one weekend per month (all day Saturday and Sunday) and feature live instruction from accomplished UF faculty members who travel from Gainesville to teach in this program. The next program begins in August. The curriculum takes 20 months to complete and is a collaboration of UF Colleges of Engineering and Business. A recently instituted concurrent degree option makes also getting an MBA degree possible with only 12 more months of coursework.

All interested parties are invited to attend the OEM Open House session. There will not be a formal program or presentation, so attendees can drop by as their schedules permit. Program faculty and staff, as well as some current students, will be present to answer questions and explain the program. An RSVP is not required, but would be helpful. Call 800-321-0199 or send e-mail to oemprogram@ise.ufl.edu. For more details, please visit the OEM Web site at www.ise.ufl.edu/oemp.

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.