



# countdown

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## News conference Monday to set STS-124 mission launch date



◆ **Mission Update:** NASA managers have scheduled a news conference for no earlier than 4 p.m. on

Monday to discuss the status of the next space shuttle launch. The news conference will begin after the conclusion of the Flight Readiness Review, a meeting to assess preparations for space shuttle Discovery's STS-124 mission to the International Space Station. The review is expected to include the selection of an official launch date. Discovery is targeted to launch May 31 at 5:02 p.m.

The briefing participants are Associate Administrator for Space Operations *Bill Gerstenmaier*, Space Shuttle Program Manager *John Shannon*, International Space Station Program Manager *Mike Suffredini*, and STS-124 Assistant Launch Director *Ed Mango*. NASA Television and the agency's Web site will broadcast the briefing live.

◆ **ELV Update:** NASA will hold two media briefings on May 20, beginning at 11 a.m., on the international Ocean Surface Topography Mission /Jason-2, which is dedicated to monitoring sea-level rise and improving weather and climate forecasts. They will be carried live on NASA Television.

Panelists at an 11 a.m. briefing will discuss the overall mission: *Steven Neeck*, with the Science Mission Directorate; *Parag Vaze*, with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; *Eric Thouvenot*, with CNES in Paris, France; *Mike Mignogno*, with NOAA's Satellite Operations Facility; and *Mikael Rattenborg*, with EUMETSAT in Darmstadt, Germany.

## Panelists to discuss objectives of OSTM launch

Panelists named below at a 12:15 p.m. briefing will discuss the science objectives of the mission: *Eric Lindstrom*, with NASA's Science Mission Directorate; *Lee Lueng-Fu*, with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory; *Laury Miller*, with the NOAA Laboratory for Satellite Altimetry; and *Josh Willis*, with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

■ **NASA TV To Cover Resupply Arrival Ship at ISS** — The residents of the International Space Station will receive a new shipment of food, fuel and supplies on Friday, and NASA Television will broadcast its arrival live. Expedition 17 Commander *Sergei Volkov* and Flight Engineers *Oleg Kononenko* and *Garrett Reisman* will be standing by as the unpiloted ISS Progress 29 resupply craft automatically docks to the Earth-facing port on the Zarya module at 5:37 p.m. NASA TV coverage of the new Progress' arrival will begin at 5 p.m.



■ **Sea Turtle Nesting Season Has Begun** — Sea Turtle nesting season runs from May 1 to Oct. 31. During this time frame, all employees are asked to extinguish all unnecessary exterior lights. Employees are encouraged to help identify potential light sources that could be extinguished and provide that information to the facility manager or contact the NASA Environmental Program Branch.

■ **Wet 'n Wild Summer Splash** — All the NASA Exchange Retail Stores will be selling tickets for the Wet 'n Wild

KARS/KSC Summer Splash Bash to be held May 24. Tickets will be on sale through May 23 at all NASA Exchange retail stores while supplies last. Tickets are \$23.75 per person (ages 3+). Regular park hours will be 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and exclusive hours for KSC employees will be 6 - 9 p.m. With your ticket you will get a 20-percent discount at all snack outlets and FREE unlimited soft drinks from 1 - 9 p.m. at any snack outlet. Parking for the event will be \$4 with your tickets. To participate in the Wet 'n Wild free gift bag drawing, place your name and phone number on the back of your Summer Splash Bash receipt and place in the designated box.



■ **Flags at Half Staff for Peace Officers Memorial Day** — The flags of the

United States are flying at half staff today in compliance with a proclamation of the President recognizing the joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), authorizing and requesting the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week." Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136-137), directs that the flag be flown at half staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

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