



countdown

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Crew checks out Discovery's tiles, docks to the ISS



◆ Mission Update:

On Monday, the STS-124 crew inspected the space shuttle Discovery's thermal protection system using the end effector camera of the shuttle's robotic arm since the orbiter boom sensor system, or OBSS, was left behind on the International Space Station on the STS-123 mission. Discovery will retrieve the OBSS and use it to perform a more detailed inspection on the seventh flight day of the mission. Discovery will then bring the OBSS back home with it when it returns to Earth June 14.

On Monday, Discovery docked with the space station at 2:03 p.m. EDT. Prior to the docking, Discovery made its rendezvous pitch maneuver, enabling station astronauts to take pictures of Discovery's heat shield for analysis by ground imagery experts.



◆ **ELV Update:** On Monday, the Ocean Topography Mission, or OSTM/ Jason-2, was moved to Space Launch Complex 2 to be mated with the Delta II rocket.

The Flight Program Verification, an integrated test of both the Delta II and the OSTM/ Jason-2 spacecraft, will be conducted Thursday. This is the last major test before launch. The payload fairing will be installed around the spacecraft on June 9. The Delta II second-stage hypergolic propellants will be loaded into the vehicle on June 12.

■ **Robotics Camp For Girls** — The Society of Women Engineers is conducting Robotics Camp for Girls in Cocoa Beach. There are still openings in camp the week of June 23 for girls in sixth to 10th grades. This is a great opportunity for girls who like to build things or are interested in science to have hands-on experience building a robot and programming it. For full details, go to the Web at www.swe-sc.org/Robotics/Camp.htm, or contact Judy Kersey at judy.kersey@swe.org or 783-4644.

■ **Upcoming KEA Events** — The Kennedy Engineering Academy will be hosting the events shown below in June and July. Please mark your calendars and watch for updates! NASA and contractor personnel are invited to attend this event.

June 11: Solar Array Rotary Joint (3D Demo!), 9 - 10:30 a.m., in the KSC Training Auditorium.

June 19: KEA on the Move: Tour of SRB Retrieval Ship, 1 p.m., at CCAFS.

June 25: Mobile Launcher Platform (MLP) Update, 10 a.m. - noon, in the KSC Training Auditorium.

July 9: Lunar Launch and Landing, 9 - 10:30 a.m., in the KSC Training Auditorium.

If you have any questions, please contact Gisele Altman at gisele.altman-1@nasa.gov or 867-4000.

To view past KEA events or presentations, please visit the Web site: <http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

■ **NASA Science** — NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope has found a bizarre ring of material around the magnetic remains

OSTM spacecraft moves to launch pad for integration test

of a star that blasted itself to smithereens. Although rings and spheres of material are common in the universe, this one is not quite like any ring astronomers have seen before. You can read about it at: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/29may_magnetar.htm?list947891.

■ **NASA News** — The liftoff of space shuttle Discovery kicked off a new education initiative between NASA and Disney Parks. A 12-inch-tall Buzz Lightyear action figure is aboard the shuttle as part of the partnership to encourage students to pursue studies in science, technology and mathematics, one of NASA's main educational goals.

Disney's Youth Educational Series and NASA have developed an online program known as the Space Ranger Education Series. It includes fun educational games for students, as well as materials for educators to download and integrate into their classroom curriculum.

Since Saturday's launch, the online games featuring Buzz Lightyear have been available by visiting NASA's homepage and selecting the box for the NASA Kids' Club at: <http://www.nasa.gov>.

One of the games is "Toys in Space" in which players can navigate Buzz Lightyear to different toys to see a movie on how they behave in space.

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