



countdown

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Televised briefings in September to discuss Hubble repair mission



◆ NASA Briefings:

NASA will hold a series of news media briefings Sept. 8-9 to preview the space shuttle's fifth and

final servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope. NASA Television and the agency's Web site will provide live coverage of the briefings from the Johnson Space Center and the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Shuttle Atlantis' 11-day flight, designated STS-125, is targeted for launch Oct. 8 and will include five spacewalks to refurbish and upgrade the telescope with state-of-the-art science instruments. Replacing failed hardware on Hubble will extend the telescope's life into the next decade. The briefing schedule includes:

Sept. 8

8 a.m. - NASA Overview

9 a.m. - Shuttle Program Overview

10 a.m. - HST/SM 4 Program Overview

Noon - HST/SM4 Science Overview

Sept. 9

9 a.m. - STS-125 Mission Overview

10:30 a.m. - STS-125 Spacewalk Overview

1 p.m. - STS-125 Crew News Conference

◆ **ELV Update:** The Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX, spacecraft arrived at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on July 28. It was taken to the Astrotech Space Operations facility for processing. The following day the spacecraft was removed from its shipping container and placed on a test stand in the clean room high bay. IBEX was powered on July 31 to begin the state-of-health checks of the spacecraft's operating sys-

tems. This week, testing of the spacecraft science instruments is scheduled.

At the Orbital Sciences launch vehicle hangar, prelaunch processing of the Pegasus XL rocket is under way. Work to attach the second and third stages is scheduled to begin Aug. 6. Integration of the first and second stages is planned to start Aug. 8. Fairing preparations also are scheduled to begin this week.

■ **NASA News** — NASA's Constellation Program has selected 11 companies and one university to independently develop concepts that contribute to how astronauts will live and work on the moon. Each organization will conduct a 180-day study focused on a topic relevant to lunar surface systems. Selected organizations and topics are as follows:

-- *Alternative Packaging Options:*

Oceanering Space Systems of Houston

-- *Avionics:* Honeywell International, Inc. of Glendale, Ariz.

-- *Energy Storage:* ATK Space Systems Group of Brigham City, Utah, Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio, and Hamilton Sundstrand of Canoga Park, Calif.

-- *Minimum Habitation Functions:* The Boeing Company of Huntington Beach, Calif., ILC Dover of Frederica, Del., and the University of Maryland, College Park.

-- *Regolith Moving Methods:* Astrobot Technology Inc. of Pittsburgh and Honeybee Robotics of New York.

-- *Software:* The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., and United Space Alliance of Houston.

The awards total approximately \$2 million, with a maximum individual

IBEX testing at Vandenberg scheduled this week

award of \$250,000.

■ KEA-26: Software Test Design —

The KSC Engineering Academy will be hosting "KEA-26: Software Test Design Methodologies for Object-Oriented Software," 9-10:30 a.m. **tomorrow** at the KSC Training Auditorium. Dr. Ali Shaykhian will discuss Unified Modeling Language (UML) artifacts that are most suitable candidates for Object-Oriented software test design. NASA and contractor personnel are invited to attend. Please send questions and comments to KSC-Engineering-Academy@mail.nasa.gov. To view future listings, or video/PDF versions of past KEA events, please visit: <http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

■ **New Badging Facility** — A new badging facility has been built on S.R. 405, just west of Gate 3. On Thursday, the move will begin from the current PIDS 3 on S.R. 405 to this new facility. During the move, badging services at PIDS 3 will continue without interruption. By close of business Aug. 8, the move should be complete. Thereafter, PIDS 3 will not be functional and starting Aug. 11 at 6 a.m., badging services will be provided at the new facility. Signs will direct personnel to the new facility. Your patience during this effort will be appreciated.

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