



countdown

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Hubble payload in Pad 39A payload changeout room



◆ Shuttle Update:

The Hubble payload canister arrived at Launch Pad 39A Saturday evening. However, technicians were unable

to place the canister into the pad's payload changeout room. Teflon pads on "shoes" attached to the outside of the payload canister, which guide rails to help the canister into the changeout room, didn't fit properly. The two shoes were removed, slightly shaved down so that they would fit into the rails and put back on the canister last night.

The modification worked and technicians were able to move the canister into the changeout room early Monday morning. Below is a closeup of one of the shoes after removal from the canister.



◆ **ELV Update:** The IBEX spacecraft, its upper stage booster and the Pegasus XL rocket are in the Orbital Sciences launch vehicle hangar at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Integrated verification testing of the IBEX spacecraft and the Pegasus XL rocket finished Sept. 17 with no major complications.

IBEX attaches to Pegasus rocket this week

The complete IBEX flight system tentatively is planned to be attached to the Pegasus launch vehicle this week.

Departure of the L-1011 carrying the Pegasus XL rocket with IBEX from Vandenberg currently is planned for Oct. 10. After a stop in Hawaii, the flight will continue and arrive at the Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the south Pacific on Oct. 11.

■ **STS-124 Crew Return Presentation** – All employees are invited to welcome the crew of STS-124 back to KSC on Sept. 29! Having completed their successful mission, Commander Mark Kelly and crew will share personal stories, photos and videos of their exciting and challenging journey.

The STS-124 Crew Return Presentation will be held in the OSB II 5th floor conference room at 1 p.m. Please arrive early as seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, contact Layla Higgins at layla.m.higgins@nasa.gov.

■ **KSC Fitness Centers Survey Group Exercise** — A new group fitness class schedule will begin Sept. 29 and will run through the end of the year. The schedule can be viewed at: <http://fitness.ksc.nasa.gov/events/classess.php>.

The Fitness Centers are in the process of changing the schedule and would like your feedback. Please take a few moments to respond to the survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zcmp1t898jjxbgjt3bcw_3d_3d. Your input is very much appreciated.

■ Date For Family Day Postponed

— The 2008 Family Day has been postponed to enable full attention to upcoming launch operations. The KSC/CCAFS Family Day planning team will identify a new date in the coming weeks.

The planned NASA 50th Anniversary celebration at the KSC Visitor Complex on Oct. 18 will still occur. KSC and 45th Space Wing employees, and their friends and family, will be able to enter the main complex free of charge all day.

Employees also are invited to bring in their guests to enjoy a night of entertainment, including concerts by Big Head Johnny and the Eskimos, Rockit, and headlining act Survivor. The evening concludes with a fireworks show over the Rocket Garden. The concert series and fireworks show runs 3 - 9 p.m.

■ **Reminder** — An hour-long unclassified counterintelligence briefing, "**All Eyes On NASA,**" will be offered to KSC employees at 9 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. **Wednesday** in the KSC Training auditorium. All KSC civil servant and contractor employees are invited to attend. Seating will be first-come, first-served. For more information, please contact Ron Storey at 867-2568.

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 PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.