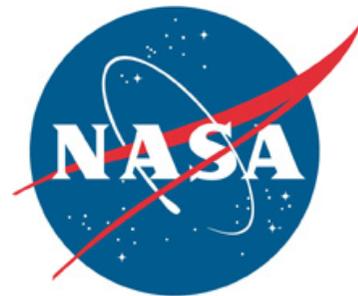


Spaceport News



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Rollaround places Endeavour on deck

Trip from Pad 39B to Pad 39A covers 3.4 miles in eight hours

*By Elaine M. Marconi
Spaceport News*

On Oct. 23, space shuttle Endeavour took center stage as it moved from Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39B to Launch Pad 39A on the crawler-transporter -- a journey that took about eight hours and covered a distance of 3.4 miles.

For more than a month, Endeavour stood stately on Pad B while Atlantis occupied Pad A for its STS-125 mission to service NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Endeavour was prepared as Atlantis' rescue mission and for its STS-126 mission to the International Space Station.

After a technical problem on Hubble delayed the servicing mission, Atlantis and its payload returned to Kennedy's Vehicle Assembly Building, making way for Endeavour's move to the



NASA/Kim Shifflett

Kennedy visitors watch as space shuttle Endeavour moves away from Launch Pad 39B and turns toward Launch Pad 39A on Oct. 23. Endeavour is targeted to launch Nov. 14 on the STS-126 mission to the International Space Station.

center's primary launch site. "It's a very rare set of circumstances," said Ken Tenbusch, flow director for Endeavour. "By rolling around (to Pad A), that allows the Ares and Constellation folks to do the modifications they need to do for their launch."

Endeavour originally was scheduled to move to its

next seaside launch pad Oct. 25, but a stormy weekend forecast prompted NASA mission managers to roll-around a few days early.

The Multi-Purpose Logistics Module Leonardo, already inside the payload changeout room at Pad A, was moved into the shuttle's payload bay Oct. 26. Leonardo, considered one

of NASA's three "moving vans," is jam-packed with about 19,000 pounds of equipment and supplies -- one of the heaviest modules in shuttle history.

Endeavour also will deliver additional sleeping quarters, a second toilet, an exercise device and other household-type equipment to the orbiting outpost,

which is all necessary to enable the station to accommodate a larger crew, starting in spring 2009.

"The flow was very smooth, even though we were processing both vehicles at the same time," Tenbusch said. "The team has done a superior effort from start to finish. We have a vehicle that's going to be flying next month, it's very exciting."

During the 15-day mission the STS-126 astronauts have an ambitious work schedule ahead of them.

Highlighting the four spacewalks will be the servicing of two Solar Alpha Rotary Joints, or SARJ, which allow the station's solar arrays to track the sun and supply the station with electrical power. They've been providing limited use since Sept. 2007.

Commander Chris Ferguson heads-up the STS-126 mission; the other crew members include, Pilot Eric Boe and Mission

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Heritage: Discovery arrived at Kennedy 25 years ago



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IBEX launch tests telemetry, communications group

By Anna Heiney
Spaceport News

The mandate of NASA's Launch Services Program is to be able to launch any vehicle, anytime, from anywhere in the world.

The program lives up to this goal year after year, mission after mission. But the launch of the Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX, spacecraft aboard an Orbital Sciences Pegasus rocket put the program's mobility to the test. That's because IBEX launched from the Reagan Test Site on Kwajalein Atoll, part the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific -- thousands of miles away from the program's home base at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Before the launch managers and controllers sat down at their consoles and put on their headsets on launch day, the Telemetry and Communications Group had to arrange for data, voice and video, and get the consoles set up and configured.

"We have a fully functional mobile system," said Eric Anderson, who leads the group as chief of the program's Ground Systems Integration Branch. Standing in the plush Mission Director's Center at Cape Canaveral



NASA

From their consoles in the Mission Director's Center at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, launch controllers monitor a launch vehicle and spacecraft prior to liftoff in this image taken from high definition video. The Telemetry and Communications Group provides data, voice, video and telemetry for NASA launches around the globe -- even as far away as Alaska and the Marshall Islands.

Air Force Station's Hangar AE, he gestured at rows of polished wood consoles housing slick computer displays. "We can provide everything you see here on a desk out at Kwajalein. Instead of a comfortable console, you're sitting in front of a laptop computer with extra displays, but the capability is all there."

The Launch Services Program uses two primary launch sites: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

But mission requirements occasionally call for launches from other sites, such as Kodiak Island in Alaska, Wallops Flight Facility in

Virginia, and Kwajalein.

Anderson's office provides end-to-end support for spacecraft and launch vehicle customers, as well as the program itself, by ensuring all parties have the necessary data, voice and video communications to accomplish all pre-launch and launch-day operations. Examples include, transmitting data between the launch site and the spacecraft's mission operations center during pre-launch testing, setting up and configuring controllers' consoles, and recording and displaying vehicle and spacecraft telemetry during liftoff and ascent.

The Telemetry and Communica-

tions Group began planning for IBEX in fall 2007, almost a year in advance. Equipment arrived at the South Pacific launch facility in January 2008 and the group successfully completed a full test in March.

The IBEX launch introduced a new set of logistical challenges to the team's usual preparations, from arranging for satellite coverage to negotiating an eight-hour time difference.

"We'll have three sites up -- Kwajalein, Vandenberg and Kennedy -- and we'll have them all tied in through satellite," Anderson said. "It will be the first time three sites are up and running at once for one launch."

Another unique feature of the Launch Services Program's ground system is its ability to process and display data for multiple launch vehicles simultaneously.

Although no more than four vehicles are typically monitored at a given time, every console could be set to monitor a different vehicle.

"Next year is going to be exceptionally busy," Anderson said, referring to the number of launches on the schedule, including several from Vandenberg. "It's going to be quite interesting coming up."

Small spacecraft's mission expected to produce big results

By Elaine M. Marconi
Spaceport News

What does it take to prepare NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer, or IBEX, mission spacecraft and launch vehicle?

John Calvert, Launch Services Program mission manager for IBEX at Kennedy Space Center, knows.

Calvert heads up a diverse team of engineers, analysts and business professionals, who work to make sure the IBEX spacecraft, managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Pegasus rocket and launch site were ready to go.

The IBEX -- often compared to the size of a bus tire -- was the heaviest ever launched off a Pegasus rocket. Also, this was only the third Pegasus launch from the Kwajalein Atoll's Reagan Test Site in the South Pacific.

"It's a unique launch site we don't go to every day," Calvert said.

To add to the many logistical challenges, as late as spring of 2008, Calvert's team realized that IBEX wasn't designed to withstand the previously predicted load pressure during launch.

This revelation called for a "shock-absorber"

type of system to be included in the launch stack to protect the sensitive IBEX equipment from the harsh launch environment.

Designing, building, testing and analyzing the upgrades pushed the summer launch to Oct. 19.

Also complicating launch plans, IBEX could only launch within specific windows each month, so scheduling around other missions wasn't easy.

The monumental task of getting the launch team assembled, packing up all the necessary equipment and safely transporting IBEX to the launch site half-a-world away was at hand. Every piece of equipment had to be tested and securely packed for transport.

"There's not a 'spare parts store' on Kwajalein waiting to supply us with anything we need or may have forgotten," Calvert said.

Calvert and his team traveled to Vandenberg Air Force Base in California several weeks early to test the equipment before heading out to Kwajalein.

In early October, IBEX, also built by Orbital Sciences Corp., was integrated with the Pegasus XL rocket at Orbital's facilities at Vandenberg. Pegasus was then installed to the underside of Orbital's modified L-1011 carrier aircraft.

The L-1011 flew Vandenberg to Hawaii for a short stopover before heading to the South Pacific.

When asked what makes this mission unique, Calvert said proudly, "It's a small mission -- it's like the 'little engine that could' -- a small spacecraft doing big work."

Calvert and his dedicated team worked around-the-clock for more than two years to make this mission a success.

IBEX will be stationed 200,000 miles above Earth -- above the region of space controlled by Earth's magnetic field, called the magnetosphere, which can interfere with observations. There, IBEX's instruments will have an unobstructed view of the entire sky, and for the first time will capture the energetic interactions of hot solar wind colliding with the cold expanse of space.

According to David McComas, IBEX principal investigator from the Southwest Research Institute, knowing more about the interstellar boundary regions is important because it shields the Earth from the majority of dangerous galactic cosmic rays, which otherwise would penetrate into Earth's orbit and make human spaceflight much more dangerous.

It's clear that NASA's IBEX mission is an enormous undertaking by a diminutive, but exceptional spacecraft.

Blackwell-Thompson fired up as first female NASA test director

By Linda Herridge
Spaceport News

Charlie Blackwell-Thompson is preparing for the role of a lifetime. As space shuttle Endeavour's STS-126 mission nears the T-minus-zero mark for liftoff, she will be the agency's first woman to serve as NASA test director, or NTD, during launch.

"It is a great honor to serve as the STS-126 launch NTD," Blackwell-Thompson said. "It will be extremely exciting to sit in Launch Control Center Firing Room 4 when the space shuttle lifts off from the pad. I feel a closeness to Endeavour and her upcoming mission."

To prepare, Blackwell-Thompson spent the last four missions as the assistant NTD. In the weeks prior to launch, she will review launch procedures, as well as launch countdown schedules and plans. During launch countdown, she will ensure work is complete and all constraints are resolved.

"The best part of the job is working with great people and seeing the creativity of a team when an issue or problem arises," Blackwell-Thompson said.

She's been in the firing room many times, serving in various capacities. In 1988, Blackwell-Thompson came to Kennedy Space Center to work as a payload flight software engineer for McDonnell Douglas, which was later acquired by Boeing.

She sat at the C-1 console in Firing Rooms 1, 3 and 4 during the test, checkout and launch of payloads on several missions, including the launch of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and subsequent servicing missions.

Blackwell-Thompson moved to NASA in 2004, joining the Launch and Landing Division in the Space Shuttle Processing Directorate. She participated in rotational assignments and was a vehicle processing engineer in the Orbiter Processing Facility assigned to Endeavour.

"Since she joined the Launch and Landing Division nearly five years ago, Blackwell-Thompson has consistently been an outstanding leader," Division Chief Pete Nickolenko said. "She's fully trained and ready to perform this critical launch role, and we're all thrilled to have her lead this team."

Blackwell-Thompson remem-



NASA/Dimitri Gerondidakis

Charlie Blackwell-Thompson spent the past four missions as assistant NASA test director to prepare her for the role of NASA test director for the upcoming STS-126 mission targeted for Nov. 14.

bers Endeavour's first power-up after its orbiter maintenance down period. "It was so exciting to see the orbiter come to life after all the modifications were complete. Now, to be part of the team that will send Endeavour on her way to the International Space Station is even more thrilling.

"Things work out the way they're supposed to," Blackwell-Thompson said. "My story is not very different from others here at Kennedy."

The mother of three credits three women for teaching her to balance priorities. Her grandmother taught her the importance of family and family time, her mother encouraged her to always dream big and work hard, and her aunt reminded

her to not sweat the small stuff.

"We're living in exciting times with a lot to look forward to in the coming year," Blackwell-Thompson said. "We will be returning to the Hubble Space Telescope and restoring it to its full capabilities.

"The space shuttle has been such a work-horse for us. I'm proud to be part of the space program," she said. "It's also going to be very exciting to see the Ares 1-X launch vehicle on the pad next year."

Blackwell-Thompson's husband, Richard, works in the electrical division of Kennedy's Engineering Directorate and supports the Launch Services Program. They have two sons, Matt, 15, and Cody, 12, and a daughter, Lhotse, 8.

Groundbreaking of historic site launches commercial ventures

By Linda Herridge
Spaceport News

Space exploration took another leap for the stars during a groundbreaking ceremony at historic Launch Complex 36 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Oct. 22. The event marked the U.S. Air Force's official "intent to lease" the site to Space Florida for construction of a launch pad that will accommodate light-to-medium lift vertical launches.

Digging in with shovels to symbolically help break ground for a new launch pad that will support commercial, civil and military

launches, were Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, Brig. Gen. Susan Helms and Space Florida President Steve Kohler. Joining them, were Lt. Gen. William Shelton, commander of the 14th Air Force, and Space Florida Board Member Maj. Gen. Lloyd Newton.

Brig. Gen. Helms said CCAFS was and will continue to have a critical importance to America's access to space. "It's a thrilling business," Helms said. "We are poised to enter a new era of space exploration."

Helms handed the 45th Space Wing over to Brig. Gen. Edward



NASA/Jim Grossman

From left, Brig. Gen. Susan Helms, Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, Gov. Charlie Crist, Lt. Gen. William Shelton, Steve Kohler and Maj. Gen. Lloyd Newton, ceremoniously break ground for Launch Complex 36 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Oct. 22.

See **HISTORIC**, Page 8

Scene Around Ken



NASA/Kim Shifflett

Crew members for space shuttle Endeavour's STS-126 mission arrived at the Shuttle Landing Facility on Oct. 26 for the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test, or TCDT, activities. From left, are: Mission Specialists Shane Kimbrough and Steve Bowen, Pilot Eric Boe, Commander Chris Ferguson, and Mission Specialists Donald Pettit, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper and Sandra Magnus. Magnus will remain on the International Space Station as a flight engineer and science officer for Expedition 18.



NASA/Amanda Diller

Spaceman was among business leaders interested in learning more about government contracting and what local and national vendors have to offer at NASA's Small Business Expo 2008 on Oct. 21 at Cruise Terminal 3 at Port Canaveral.



On Launch Pad 39A, space shuttle Endeavour's STS-126 mission payload is transferred from the Multi-Purpose Logistics Module Leonardo was installed in Endeavour's payload bay Oct. 26. Endeavour is headed to the International Space Station.

Kennedy Space Center



NASA/Kim Shifflett

The payload canister into the Payload Changeout Room. The endeavour is targeted for launch on Nov. 14 to the International



Reader-submitted photo

Employees of United Space Alliance and Troutman Technical Services Inc. assist Launch Pad A Payload Changeout Room technicians and engineers as they put on their clean-room garments in the Garment Changeout Room. The Hubble payload requires extra clean-room controls that will ensure no contamination occurs to the delicate instruments.



NASA

Employees for the month of October are, from left, Craig Schreiber, Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate; Scott Koester, Launch Vehicle Processing Directorate; William J. Hill, Engineering Directorate; Frank Dodd, Information Technology & Communications Services; Susan Lambert, Launch Services Program; Heather Torres, Chief Financial Office; Clayton A. Yonce, Human Resources Office; Beau Charvet, Constellation Project Office; Richard K. Snyder, Engineering Directorate; and James Miller, Center Operations. Not pictured are Jacqueline W. Quinn, Applied Technology Directorate and George C. Horanic, ISS & Spacecraft Processing Directorate.

Spaceport News wants your photos

Send photos of yourself and/or your co-workers in action for possible publication.

Photos should include a short caption describing what's going on, with names and job titles, from left to right. KSC-Spaceport-News@mail.nasa.gov

CFC showcases local agencies to NASA workers

By Linda Herridge
Spaceport News

The Combined Federal Campaign, or CFC, at Kennedy Space Center began Oct. 9, but really hit the ground running Oct. 15 with a Kick-off Showcase.

During the showcase, NASA civil servants met and talked with representatives from several local non-profit organizations and heard stories about how their generosity helps many in need.

CFC Co-chairperson Christy Layton said the showcase helped spread the word to NASA employees about the important services their donations provide. The 2008 CFC runs through Nov. 7, with the slogan, "One Small Gift – One Giant Impact."

Carol DeGarmo, the



NASA/Dimitri Gerondidakis

Carol DeGarmo, left, and Molly Lovan, with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida, talked with Kennedy Space Center workers during the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign Kick-off Showcase on Oct. 15.

director of program outreach and development for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida, said contributions from NASA workers help champion the mission to provide services to children in this community.

Jackie Hoskins is a

volunteer for the American Cancer Society and a member of the Relay for Life operating committee.

"Our goal is to educate people and make them aware of the Relay for Life events," Hoskins said. Contributions from CFC go to-

Non-profit groups visit Kennedy

2-1-1 Brevard Inc., ALS Association, American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundation, Autism Speaks, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida, Boy Scouts, Brevard County Legal Aid, Central Brevard Sharing Center, Child Care Association of Brevard County, Children's Tumor Foundation, Community Health Charities, Community Treatment Centers, Community Services Council of Brevard County, Earth Share, Family Counsel-

ing Center of Brevard, Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida, Prevent Blindness FL, Project Response, The Salvation Army, Serene Harbor, Sickle Cell Association of Brevard County Inc., Southeastern Guide Dogs, Space Coast Center for Independent Living, Hospice of St. Francis, Susan G. Komen for the Cure-Central Florida Affiliate, United Way of Brevard and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

ward programs and services, providing transportation and a 24-hour hotline for cancer patients.

Marlene Squires, a volunteer for the Community Services Council of Brevard County, said contributions

mean a great deal to the organization and the community.

"Donations help our kitchens provide meals for seniors and children, especially after hurricanes or other disasters," she said.

NAC targets economy, environment, endeavors

Across America, it seems as though everyone is talking about the future of health care, the environment, technology, education and the economy -- after all, we are in the midst of a presidential election. On Oct. 16, NASA's Advisory Council got together in Cocoa Beach to join in on the nation-wide discussion and make recommendations for the agency's future.

What many Americans may not know, is that NASA really dips its hand into everything from educating future rocket designers and locating environmental hazards to innovative technologies, such as hydrodynamic swimwear, and even changing the way we eat.

Perhaps the most important issue the council talked about is the future economic state of NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

"The big task here is to manage a complex work force as you wind down the largest sustaining program

that NASA has ever had down to zero over the next couple of years," Audit and Finance Committee Chair Robert Hanisee said.

The council talked about the need for Kennedy to keep its highly skilled work force by cross training workers as the agency transitions from the Space Shuttle Program to the Constellation Program.

Aeronautics Committee Chair Gen. Lester Lyles started the meeting with talks of developing "green" aircraft in collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation.

"The overall goal in the area of fuel, in addition to noise and emissions, is to try to make a reduction of about 50 percent within the next 20 years or so," Lyles said.

To reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, NASA will look at developing new engine and airframe technologies, as well as implementing operational changes in air traffic control.

Space Operations Committee Chair Dr.

Jack Burns described America as being in the "golden age" of space sciences, with many missions already in orbit and several more scheduled to take off next year.

"You may hear our community rumble and groan a little bit, on occasion, but we also want to say how excited we are that NASA and the American taxpayer has provided for us to do this exciting science," Burns said.

Perhaps the most fascinating space-science mission set to launch in 2009, is the Mars Science Lab -- a rover that will carry an advanced suite of instruments to the Martian surface.

"This is a huge landing vehicle and rover. I mean this is not the Spirit and Opportunity that we think of -- this is the size of a small bus -- and it's going to be tootling around Mars for some time," Burns said. "It's a true science laboratory, as the name implies."

Space Operations Committee

Chair and former astronaut Col. Eileen Collins talked about the upcoming STS-126 mission and how the science experiments going up could affect healthcare and vaccines. NASA teamed up with SpaceHab Inc., the Department of Veteran Affairs and various research institutes to study the costly and sometimes-deadly bacteria salmonella in space.

"Cells grow much faster in space and the mass transfer at the cellular level is different," Collins said.

Human Capital Committee Chair Dr. Gerald Kulcinski touched on NASA's quest to align with the education community by inspiring, engaging and educating students. And most importantly, employing graduates of science, technology, engineering and mathematic disciplines.

The council meets again in February -- with a new White House administration, a new budget and new goals for the future.

Discovery joined fleet 25 years ago

By Kay Grinter
Reference Librarian

Kennedy Space Center welcomed Discovery into the space shuttle fleet 25 years ago, as it touched down on the Shuttle Landing Facility for the first time Nov. 9, 1983, atop a modified Boeing 747 shuttle carrier aircraft.

Plans to construct the new shuttle began in earnest when NASA announced in February 1979, that a contract to build two additional space shuttle orbiters had been signed with Rockwell International Corporation's space systems group.

Discovery was the third shuttle intended for orbital flight to come off the production line at Rockwell's plant in Palmdale, Calif. Designated OV-103, its orbiter vehicle number, Discovery was the lightest of the reusable vehicles manufactured.

The primary difference between Discovery and its immediate predecessor, Challenger, was cosmetic. Engineers used a new type of thermal material called advanced felt reusable surface insulation, or AFRSI, in place of most of the low-temperature white tiles and felt reusable surface insulation, or FRSI, which covered the upper portion of the wings, the mid-fuselage and the orbital maneuvering system pods on orbiters Challenger and Columbia.

Manufacturing changes and use of the quilt-like material enabled engineers to trim the dry weight of the vehicle to 147,980 pounds, which is 1,662 pounds less than Challenger weighed.

The orbiter received an initial acceptance inspection in Kennedy's Orbiter Processing Facility, or OPF, but was housed in the Vehicle



NASA file photos

Discovery sits atop a 747 shuttle carrier aircraft after its arrival to Kennedy Space Center on Nov. 9, 1983. The two aircraft are entering the Mate-Demate Device for Discovery's tow to the Orbiter Processing Facility.

Remembering Our Heritage

Assembly Building, or VAB, from Dec. 9 until Jan 10. The only two existing OPF high bays were needed to complete more time-critical work on shuttles Columbia and Challenger, slated to launch before the finishing touches could be completed on Discovery.

Inspections, modifications and launch preparations for Discovery's maiden flight, STS 41-D, were completed in the OPF from Jan. 10 until May 12. The pristine orbiter then moved to the VAB once more for its



NASA file photos

Discovery is towed Dec. 9, 1983, to the Vehicle Assembly Building for temporary storage while Columbia was deserviced in the Orbiter Processing Facility after its STS-9 mission.

first mating with an external-fuel tank and solid rocket booster stack. The complete vehicle stack rolled out to the launch pad May 19.

The most difficult and hazardous test to be completed on a new shuttle prior to its first flight was the 20-second flight readiness

Did you know?

Discovery, the third shuttle to become operational, was named after one of two ships that were used by the British explorer James Cook in the 1770s during voyages in the South Pacific which led to the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands.

firing of its main engines, and Discovery passed with flying colors June 2.

Ironically, the first engine cutoff and launch abort in the Space Shuttle Program, and only the second such event in the human spaceflight program, occurred during Discovery's STS 41-D countdown June 26. The rare event took place at T-4 seconds when Discovery's general purpose computer detected an anomaly in the shuttle's number three main engine.

In the orbiter cockpit, Mission Commander Henry Hartsfield said he felt the big thump of engine ignition, then immediately saw the bright red warning lights signaling the cutoff of two engines. "I knew immediately we weren't going anywhere," he said.

The engine was replaced in the OPF and the shuttle stack was rolled out to the pad once more Aug. 9. Discovery launched Aug. 30, with only a brief delay when a private aircraft strayed into Kennedy's airspace.

Hartsfield and his crew deployed three satellites on the six-day mission. Discovery's crew included, Pilot Michael Coats, Mission Specialists Judy Resnick, Mike Mullane and Steve Hawley, and Payload Specialist Charles Walker, the first non-career astronaut to travel into space.

From **HISTORIC**, Page 3

Bolton Jr. on Oct. 28.

Gov. Crist said opening LC-36 to the state of Florida truly is a great celebration for Florida and America. "The entrepreneurial spirit is in Florida's DNA," Crist said. "Florida remains committed to the future legacy of space exploration and technology development."

Kohler said Space Florida currently is working with a number of commercial launch and payload customers who have expressed great interest in utilizing the 50 years of experience Florida has invested in space.

"From a strategic perspective, the build out of LC-36 is one activity in a broad array of actions to create and develop a 'Commercial Launch Zone,' which is fundamental in establishing an effective, globally competitive economic environment for Florida and for our country," Kohler said.

Also attending the ceremony, were state senators Mike Haridopolis and Bill Posey, as well as state representatives Thad Altman, Tony Sasso and Ralph Poppell. Representatives from the offices of U.S. senators Tom Feeney, Mel Martinez and Bill

"The entrepreneurial spirit is in Florida's DNA. Florida remains committed to the future legacy of space exploration and technology development."

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist

Nelson also were present. Launch Complex 36 was built to support Atlas-Centaur uncrewed rocket launches. For most of its history, it primarily was a NASA launch complex for planetary and space-science missions. During the 1960s and 70s, the agency used the complex to launch Surveyor 1 to the moon, Mariner 9 to orbit Mars, Pioneer 10 to Jupiter, Pioneer 11 to Saturn, and two more Pioneer spacecraft to orbit and explore Venus. Dismantling of the old LC-36 launch pads and gantries wrapped up earlier this year.

From **ON DECK**, Page 1

Specialists Steve Bowen, Shane Kimbrough, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, Donald Pettit and Sandra Magnus.

Magnus will remain aboard the space station, replacing Expedition 17/18 Flight Engineer Gregory Chamitoff, who will return to Earth with the STS-126 crew.

The crew flew to Kennedy Oct. 26, to participate in the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test,

or TCDT, giving them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the flight hardware and equipment they'll be working with in space.

They'll return to the space center for final preparations a few days before the launch targeted for Nov. 14.

In the meantime, their spacecraft stands proud, ready to embark on the next flight to help complete the building of the International Space Station.

ASRC Aerospace Corp. earns small business of the year title

ASRC Aerospace Corp., which has 480 workers at Kennedy Space Center who support the shuttle and Constellation space programs, was selected by the center as the 2008 Small Business Contractor of the Year. Kennedy chose it for providing outstanding technical products and services to the University-Affiliated Spaceport Technology Development Contract.

"Winning this prestigious award is a testament to the very successful partnership between NASA and ASRC Aerospace at Kennedy Space Center and to the genuine commitment that NASA has to small business," said John Horan, president of ASRC Aerospace. "As we work side-by-side in the design

and implementation of our nation's next human spaceflight capability, I look forward to the launch of the first Constellation mission, the ultimate demonstration that we are among NASA's best small businesses."

ASRC Aerospace is a subsidiary of ASRC Federal Holding Co., a group in Alaska representing the business interests of Arctic Slope Regional Corp.

In March, ASRC Aerospace received NASA's George M. Low Award, the space agency's highest award for quality and performance.

The NASA Small Business Industry Awards recognizes the outstanding contractors that support the space agency in achieving its missions.

Looking up and ahead

Target Nov. 14	Launch/KSC: Endeavour, STS-126; 7:55 p.m.
No earlier than Nov. 16	Launch/CCAFS: Delta IV, NROL-26; TBD
Target Feb. 12, 2009	Launch/KSC: Discovery, STS-119; 7:36 a.m.
No earlier than March 5, 2009	Launch/CCAFS: Delta IV, GOES-O; TBD
Scheduled for March 5, 2009	Launch/CCAFS: Delta II, Kepler; TBD
No earlier than April 1, 2009	Launch/CCAFS: Delta II, STSS; TBD
April 24, 2009	Launch/CCAFS: Atlas V, LRO/LCROSS; TBD
Target May 15, 2009	Launch/KSC: Endeavour, STS-127; 4:52 p.m.
Target July 30, 2009	Launch/KSC: Atlantis, STS-128; TBD
Target Oct. 15, 2009	Launch/KSC: Discovery, STS-129; TBD
Target Dec. 10, 2009	Launch/KSC: Endeavour, STS-130; TBD
Scheduled for Jan. 26, 2010	Launch/CCAFS: Atlas V, SDO; TBD
Target Feb. 11, 2010	Launch/KSC: Atlantis, STS-131; TBD
Target April 8, 2010	Launch/KSC: Discovery, STS-132; TBD
Target May 31, 2010	Launch/KSC: Endeavour, STS-133; TBD

Register for PM Challenge 2009

The Project Management Challenge Conference is several months away, but registration runs from Nov. 3 to Jan. 30. For more information, visit: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov>



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

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