



countdown

March 26, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 23

Discovery leaves ISS for landing on Saturday



◆ Shuttle Update:

Space shuttle Discovery is scheduled to return to KSC on Saturday. Preferred landing times are 1:43 p.m. EDT on orbit 201 and 3:18 p.m. on orbit 202.

Wednesday afternoon, Antonelli commanded Discovery to release the station's Pressurized Mating Adapter 2 as springs pushed the shuttle out in front of the station. At a distance of 400 feet, Antonelli started circling the station so the shuttle's crew and cameras could get the first look at the completed truss structure and the fourth set of solar array wings fully deployed. Then the thrusters were fired to move Discovery away from the station to start the journey home.

◆ **ELV Update:** Preparations of the GOES-O weather satellite for launch are going well and are on schedule. Closeouts of the imager, sounder and spacecraft optics were finished last week as planned. The star tracker light shades also were installed and the lenses cleaned.

The spacecraft was placed on a special stand Sunday for fueling preparations. The loading of hydrazine currently is scheduled for Monday.

Mating GOES-O to the Delta IV payload attach fitting is planned for April 3 and will be followed by encapsulation into the fairing April 6. The move to Launch Complex-37 at CCAFS for mating to the Delta IV is scheduled for April 14. Launch is scheduled no earlier than April 28.

■ MLP Shares Two Space Programs

— A ceremony Wednesday marked the handover of Mobile Launcher Platform-1 from NASA's Space Shuttle Program to the Constellation Program. The two-story steel structure now will be modified for NASA's first flight test for the agency's next-generation spacecraft and launch vehicle system, the Ares I-X, launching in summer 2009.

■ **Administrative Professional's Breakfast** — All civil servant and contractor secretaries are invited to attend the Administrative Professional's Breakfast on April 23 at the Kennedy Learning Institute. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and will include team building with Clay Yonce and Gordy De-gear. Tickets are \$6.

For tickets, contact *Joette Feeney*, HQ/Room 2209, 867-3726; *Jennifer Lindsey*, O&C/Room 2066, 867-6400; *Fayann Hull*, SSPF/Room 3042, 867-6153; or *Tracy Drake*, OSB/Room 6401, 861-3800.

If you have any questions, please contact Fayann Hull, 867-6153, or Joette Feeney, 867-3726.



■ 2009 KSC Telephone Directory

— The 2009 KSC Telephone Directory is now available online at:

<http://phonedirectory.ksc.nasa.gov/>.

For cost savings, KSC is distributing very few copies of the printed phone directory but a CD can be requested at 867-3615 or 867-8510. Printed phone directory requests will be accepted from personnel who do not have access to the Internet or

GOES-O fueled, waiting for move to launch pad

have unique office functionalities. See http://phonedirectory.ksc.nasa.gov/cf/request_form.cfm for the request form.

■ **NASA News Update** — NASA and the European Space Agency have selected 10 proposals for science instruments to fly aboard a spacecraft that will study the sun from a unique vantage point in space.

The European-led mission, called the Solar Orbiter, will be positioned about one-fourth the distance Earth is from the sun. The location ultimately will enhance the ability for scientists worldwide to forecast space weather.

Of the 10 selected instrument proposals, three will receive NASA funding: Solar Orbiter Heliospheric Imager, Spectral Imaging of the Coronal Environment, Suprathermal Ion Spectrograph.

The investigations are part of NASA's Living with a Star Program. The program is designed to understand how and why the sun varies, how planetary systems respond and the effect on human space and Earth activities.

For more information about the Solar Orbiter program, visit:

<http://sci.esa.int/solarorbiter>.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 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.