



countdown

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Preparations under way for Endeavour's rollout Friday



◆ Shuttle Update:

After its rollover from OPF-2 to the VAB last Friday, space shuttle

Endeavour was mated with its external tank and SRBs on the mobile launcher platform Saturday. Work planned this week includes inspections and preparations for the rollout to Launch Pad 39B on Friday.

◆ **ELV Update:** At CCAFS Launch Complex 37, the GOES-O/Delta IV "wet dress rehearsal," a countdown dress rehearsal with the rocket fully fueled, was conducted on April 8. While the test completed the majority of its objectives successfully, a liquid oxygen leak was detected in the first stage, possibly in the fill and drain valve. The testing of the second stage was completed without issues. The hydrogen portion of the first stage testing also was completed successfully. The United Launch Alliance team has begun the process to isolate and repair the first stage liquid oxygen leak. Another tanking test will be performed before the GOES-O spacecraft is transported to the launch pad.

Launch is targeted to occur no earlier than May 12. The date will be adjusted accordingly based on the outcome of troubleshooting and readiness of the Delta IV, the status of space shuttle Atlantis on STS-125 and the availability of the Eastern Range.

■ **NASA News** — NASA's newest module for the International Space Station will get a new name today. The agency plans to make the announcement with the

help of Expedition 14 and 15 astronaut Sunita "Sunni" Williams on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" airing at 11:30 p.m. EDT.

The name, which will not be publicly released until the program airs, was selected from thousands of unique suggestions submitted on NASA's Web site, www.nasa.gov. The "Help Name Node 3" poll asked people to vote for the module's name either by choosing one of four NASA options or by offering their own suggestion. The poll closed March 20.

Node 3 is a pressurized module that will provide room for many of the space station's life support systems. Attached to the node is the cupola, a one-of-a-kind workstation with six windows around the sides and one on top. Node 3 is targeted for launch in late 2009.



■ PM Challenge 2010 Dates and Location Announced

— Mark your calendars for NASA PM Challenge 2010 to be held February 9-10

in Galveston, Texas. For further details, go to the PM Challenge Web site at: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

■ **NASA Science** — The 1960s technology worked for the Apollo Program, but the next lunar explorers have bigger goals and they are going to need an upgrade. NASA's Exploration Technology Development Program is working to improve tools for NASA's return to the moon. You can read the full story at: <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009>

GOES-O launch depends on leak repair, shuttle

/08apr_apolloupgrade.htm.

On another front, NASA researchers are about to climb the slopes of Earth's tallest mountain to test exploration technologies they'll need on the moon and Mars. You can read about it at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/10apr_because.htm.

■ Alleviate Pain/Stress With Massage Therapy

— Stressed out by taxes or the state of the economy? A 30-minute relaxation/therapeutic massage is only \$1 per minute. Hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call Valerie at 867-4762 (office) or 543-1047 (cell) or e-mail valerie.s.jaramillo@nasa.gov for an appointment. Massages also can reduce high blood pressure, boost your immune system and help lower blood sugar.

■ **KEA Cancellation** — The Space Transportation Planning Office Overview scheduled for today has been canceled. The April 21 presentation, "LETF Upgrades for Constellation," is still planned. It will be held at noon in the Training Auditorium. Other scheduled KEA events will be held May 4 at 10 a.m., titled "Innovative Partnership Program," and May 6 at 9 a.m., titled "Ares I-X Status."

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