



# countdown

April 16, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 29

## Endeavour to roll to pad after midnight tonight

## Testing of lunar spacecraft takes place this week



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

Space shuttle Endeavour moves from the VAB to Launch Pad 39B tomorrow. The 4.2-mile roll-out is scheduled to begin at 12:01 a.m. and will take approximately seven hours.

◆ **ELV Update:** At CCAFS, testing continues on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, spacecraft. The solar arrays are planned for installation April 20. The LCROSS spacecraft will begin preparations for fueling April 24 for fuel loading May 5.

The LRO launch vehicle, an Atlas V rocket, is scheduled to be moved from the hangar at the Atlas Space Operations Facility to the Vertical Integration Facility near the launch pad April 23 for Atlas-Centaur integration. Launch is scheduled no earlier than June 2.

■ **NASA News Update** — The International Space Station module formerly known as Node 3 has a new name. After more than a million online responses, the node will be called "Tranquility." According to Bill Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for Space Operations, "Apollo 11 landed on the moon at the Sea of Tranquility 40 years ago this July. We selected 'Tranquility' because it ties it to exploration and the moon and symbolizes the spirit of international cooperation embodied by the space station."

Tranquility 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, which is a unique workstation with six windows

on the sides and one on top.

Tranquility is scheduled to arrive at KSC in May where it will be prepared for space shuttle Endeavour's flight, designated STS-130, targeted for launch in February 2010. Tranquility will join four other named U.S. modules on the station: the Destiny laboratory, the Quest airlock, the Unity node and the Harmony node.

■ **NASA Seeks Earth Day Votes** — To celebrate Earth Day, April 22, NASA is inviting the public to vote online for the most important contribution the space agency has made to exploring Earth and improving the way we live on our home planet. Voting closes April 21. Poll results will be announced on NASA's Web site on Earth Day.

A 2008 National Research Council study identified major accomplishments resulting from Earth observations made from space. The report, "Earth Observations from Space: The First 50 Years of Scientific Achievements," cataloged scientific discoveries and practical applications, including many that resulted from NASA missions, made possible from satellite observations.

NASA selected 10 candidates highlighted in the study for consideration as the greatest achievements about planet Earth. The options include diagnosing Earth's ozone layer, predicting food shortages and tracking ecosystems worldwide.

Visitors to the online polling site, [http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/earthday/greatest\\_hits.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/earthday/greatest_hits.html), will be able to cast their votes for up to three candidate accomplishments.

■ **It's About Ability** — KSC will feature guest speaker Rachel Coleman, co-founder of Signing Time, 10 to 11:30 a.m. on April 30. Join the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity as it shares the inspiring story of Coleman, a mother, an innovator and one who has the courage, capability and desire to move forward. Coleman will reveal her story and how, through innovation and love for her children, she built a bridge to help all of us see that it's about ability!

■ **NASA Science** — NASA's twin STEREO probes are entering a mysterious region of space to look for remains of an ancient planet that might have orbited the Sun not far from Earth. If they find anything, it could solve a major puzzle — the origin of the moon. Read the full story at: [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/09apr\\_theia.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/09apr_theia.htm).

■ **Reminder** — If you plan to visit KSC with your family Saturday, be sure to check out the Web site, <http://familyday.ksc.nasa.gov/>, which includes a list of places to visit and maps showing the auto routes. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Launch pad viewing will end at 2 p.m. — shuttles Endeavour and Atlantis are scheduled to be on the pads.

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