



countdown

April 30, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 33

Radiator dent repair not expected to delay STS-125 launch



◆ Shuttle Update:

On Launch Pad 39A, radiator dents caused by a falling socket in Atlantis' payload bay during payload installation operations last week were photographed Tuesday and a crack was observed. During an inspection, personnel noted a crease but did not observe a crack in the dented radiator panel. Managers and engineers are reviewing the data and evaluating the repair options, which may include adding a doubler or stopping drilling to prevent the crack from spreading. Any necessary repair is not expected to delay the targeted May 11 launch.

◆ **ELV Update:** The three solar arrays were attached to LRO on April 19. Spacecraft testing last week included applying power to the solar arrays, a course sun sensor functional test and phase testing of the attitude control system.

The LCROSS spacecraft was fueled April 25. LRO fuel loading is scheduled for May 5.

The Atlas V booster stage was moved from the hangar at the Atlas Space Operations Facility to the Vertical Integration Facility at CCAFS near the launch pad on April 27. The Centaur was moved Wednesday and hoisted atop the Atlas. Launch is targeted no earlier than June 2.

■ **NASA News** — NASA is preparing to fly a small satellite about the size of a loaf of bread that could help scientists better understand how effectively drugs work in space. The nanosatellite, known

as PharmaSat, is a secondary payload aboard a U.S. Air Force four-stage Minotaur 1 rocket planned for launch next Tuesday evening.

PharmaSat weighs approximately 10 pounds. It contains a controlled environment micro-laboratory packed with sensors and optical systems that can detect the growth, density and health of yeast cells and transmit that data to scientists for analysis on Earth. PharmaSat also will monitor the levels of pressure, temperature and acceleration the yeast and the satellite experience while circling Earth at 17,000 mph.

To learn more about drug action in space, scientists will study how the yeast responds during and after an antifungal treatment is administered at three distinct dosage levels.

The Minotaur 1 rocket is on the launch pad at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops Island, Va. The Wallops range is conducting final checkouts. The U.S. Air Force has announced that the rocket could launch at any time during a three-hour launch window beginning at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

■ **Aerospace Work Force Transition Team Open House** — The open house will be held May 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the AWT Offices in NASA HQ/Room 1474. Aerospace workers can:

- Meet AWT staff and supporters.
- Learn about resources, career guidance and training available for career preparation after shuttle retirement.
- Learn about skills assessment, indi-

LRO/LCROSS readied for June 2 launch

vidual counseling and career planning.

Mexican hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served for Cinco de Mayo!

There still is important work to finish for the remaining launches, but AWT hopes you'll stop by to learn about the programs and resources available to begin your plan for the shuttle program end. **The first 200 guests will get an AWT travel mug!**

Visit www.launchnewcareers.com or call 394-0556 for more information.

■ Recycle Phone

Books — Please do not put your outdated directories in the trash. Recycle them! All personnel will have the opportunity to participate in the center-wide directory recycling program by placing your outdated directory in your office's outgoing mail for recycling through May 29 (**this only applies to the AT&T Directory**).

If you have more outdated directories than your outgoing mailbox can hold, please place them in a neat stack on the floor, table or desk next to your mailbox.

Brevard County residents wishing to recycle their directories at home can now recycle them in your curbside bin!



Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barret@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.