



countdown

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Discovery's ice frost ramp areas under evaluation



◆ **Shuttle Update:** Shuttle management is evaluating options and analyzing data related to the foam insulation on the ice frost ramp area on Discovery's external fuel tank. The ice frost ramps being evaluated are brackets on the outside of the upper part of the external tank. The topic will be thoroughly considered at the shuttle program's flight readiness review meeting today and Wednesday. In the meantime, teams continue to work toward Discovery's targeted Aug. 25 launch.

◆ **ELV Update:** Last week, the Ka-band RF downlink checkouts were successfully completed on the Solar Dynamic Observatory. The instrument module was cleaned, and a visual inspection for the Extreme Ultraviolet Variability Experiment was performed.

The SDO full observatory comprehensive performance test began Aug. 10. This fully tests all of the spacecraft science instruments and is the last major evaluation before launch. The testing is targeted to conclude Aug. 14. The launch of SDO is scheduled for Dec. 4.

■ **Constellation News** — A full scale mock-up of NASA's Orion crew exploration vehicle is being moved from Florida to Texas to continue its testing.

The first round of Post-landing Orion Recovery Tests (PORT) occurred in March in a controlled water environment at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Md. Additional testing near KSC in April took place in the rougher, uncontrolled waters of the Atlantic

Ocean. The next testing phase, designated as PORT II, will be conducted at Johnson Space Center.

At Johnson, the PORT test article will be outfitted with seats, restraints and other items that may affect how crews get in and out of Orion. Engineers will evaluate the crew's ability to get out of Orion in calm water at the Sonny Carter Training Facility's Neutral Buoyancy Lab. NASA also will work with U.S. Air Force rescue and recovery experts to determine how parajumpers will assist crews in case of an emergency

■ **NASA Science** — The International Space Station's new "space porch" is open for business. About two weeks after it was installed by the crew of space shuttle Endeavour, the Japanese-built platform is already bustling with experiments in astronomy and space physics -- and that's just for starters. Read the full story and more at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/07aug_spaceporch.htm.



■ **Room for More at the KSC Child Development Center** — The KSC Child Development Center currently has openings for 3- and 4-year-old children. The center's goal is to provide high-quality, affordable and developmental child care for NASA KSC civil service employees and NASA/CCAFS support service contractors to assist in balancing the competing demands of family life and career. For enrollment information, please contact Lillieann Mazion or Elizabeth St. Peter at 867-5437.

Testing on SDO instruments underway this week

■ **Upcoming KEA Events** — The following events will be held in the KSC Training Auditorium:

Space Launch & Transportation Systems Overview (by APPEL), 3:30 – 5 p.m., Thursday.

Space Systems Verification & Validation Overview (by APPEL), 3:30 – 5 p.m. Aug. 27.

Tin Whiskers (part 2), 1 – 2 p.m. Sept. 29, presented by Dr. Karim Courey and Clara Wright.

■ **August 2009 Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Screening** — The screening will be done from 7 to 8 a.m. at the *OHF Wednesday* and the *MFF/Launch Area Clinic Thursday*. No appointment is necessary. You must fast for 12 hours prior to screening (water only). Please take prescription medications as usual unless instructed otherwise for fasting by your health care provider.

The 2009 two-page, CVD questionnaire forms can be picked up at any medical facility. The forms can be completed online and printed from FileNet at:

<http://ksboc-forms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010V2.itr> or download them from:

<http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/heart.cfm>. Please print each page separately!

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