

Thursday, February 19, 2004

Vol. 9, No. 12

Helium loaded on GP-B, solar arrays being added mid-March



KSC Energy & Awareness Week events set for April 20-22

▲ **ELV Update:** The Gravity Probe B launches April 17 into a 400-nautical-mile-high polar orbit for a 16-month mission. It consists of four sophisticated gyroscopes that will provide an almost perfect space-time reference system. The mission will look in a precise manner for tiny changes in the direction of spin. The filling of the GP-B spacecraft with helium began Feb. 18. In other planned spacecraft processing, servicing of the Gas Management Assembly (GMA) is also underway. The GMA provides the helium gas required to spin up the gyroscopes. It also performs magnetic flux reduction, or “flux flushing,” to minimize noise or reduce the trapped magnetic field within each gyro’s housing. Operations to re-install the solar arrays will begin in mid-March. The spacecraft is currently scheduled to be transported to Space Launch Complex 2 at Vandenberg AFB April 1 and mated to the Delta II rocket.

▲ **Environmental & Energy Awareness Week** – The Environmental & Energy Awareness Week activities take place April 20-22. Visit the EEAW Web site at <http://eeaw.ksc.nasa.gov> for up-to-date event information. Search through the exhibitors, tours, presentations, opening ceremony, dates/times of events and more.

◆ **Working Capital Fund (WCF) initiative at NASA** – You may have heard about NASA’s working capital fund. You may even know something about it. But if you want to learn more, the Web site to visit is <http://ifmp.nasa.gov/codeb/wcf/wcf.htm>. Updates are continually made to the site. Do you have ideas of where and how the WCF can be used here at KSC? Share your ideas with Bob Scoville (Robert.M.Scoville@nasa.gov), Kathy Luse (Kathy.J.Luse@nasa.gov) or Shirley Bumatay (shirley.p.bumatay@nasa.gov).

◆ **Women’s History Month Presentation** – The Federal Women’s Program Working Group is hosting a 45-minute presentation, “Change: Master the Possibilities,” being given by Marcia Steele at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, in the KSC Training Auditorium. When the desire for success exceeds the pain of change, anything is possible. This eye-opening and power-packed presentation will help everyone become masters of change rather than victims of circumstance. Learn how to fuel the flames of passion, and watch unstoppable determination make the impossible possible. All civil service and contractor personnel are invited. For additional information, contact Kandy Warren, 867-7711.

◆ **Reminder** – The EEAW 2004 poster contest deadline is Feb. 26. **Design your poster around the winning slogan, “Today’s Conservation Defines Tomorrow’s Future.”** The contest is open to all KSC civil service and contractor employees. Photoshop, PowerPoint, Word or hand sketches are acceptable on 8-1/2” x 11” paper. Only one entry allowed per person and it must include your name, mail code and phone number. The winner will be notified in February. The concept will be implemented with the overall 30” x 40” poster design produced by Graphics.

◆ **Did You Know? Webster University** is starting another session of the Master of Arts degree in business and organizational security management. If you are interested in pursuing this degree, send an e-mail with your name, address and phone number to Carol A. Marx at marxc@webster.edu or call 449-4506. Anticipated start of the course is in August. Please pass this information along to a friend or co-worker who may also be interested. For more information about Webster University, go to the Web site at www.webster.edu/spacecoast or call 449-4500.