Tuesday, May 11, 2004

KSC COUNTDOWN

Vol. 9, No. 35

Processing continues at KSC on Discovery, Atlantis, Endeavour

Aura spacecraft to be fueled Thursday before move to launch pad

▲ Shuttle Update: **Discovery's** left-hand Orbital Maneuvering System pod interface verification testing continues. Installation of Discovery's airlock began Monday. Left-hand inboard elevon X-rays are complete. Four new Rudder Speed Brake (RSB) actuators have been installed on the vehicle. The RSB panels have been bead blasted and painted, with installation scheduled to begin today.

Atlantis' Airlock was removed from the vehicle last week and fuel cell removal is underway. The four RSB panels were removed last week. The actuators are being removed and sent to the vendor for complete inspection.

Electrical modifications continue in the crew module on **Endeavour**. Thermal Control System blanket work continues in support of payload bay radiator installation. Preparations are underway for a fit check of Endeavour's nose cap. Technicians began flex hose inspections last week in the Environmental Control and Life Support bay. Structural and wire inspections are ongoing in the forward, midbody and aft of the vehicle.

▲ ELV Update: NASA's **Aura** spacecraft, the latest in the Earth Observing System (EOS) series, is at the Astrotech payload processing facility on North Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The spacecraft propulsion system testing is complete. Final preparation for fueling is scheduled to be completed tomorrow. The spacecraft will be fueled Thursday, followed by preparation for spacecraft mate to payload attached fitting currently scheduled for May 24. Launch is targeted for June 19 at 6:01 a.m. EDT.

◆ **Reminder —** The EEAW Committee thanks everyone who participated in the 2004 Environmental & Energy Awareness Week held April 20-22 and requests you to take a few minutes to fill out the survey form at **http://survey.ksc.nasa.gov/survey_1.cfm?s=EEAW_Survey**.

◆ **May is National High Blood Pressure Month**. Onsite blood pressure checks will be conducted between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. as follows:

May 11	SSPF Cafeteria
May 18	HQ Lobby
May 19	OSB Lobby
May 25	CIF Lobby
May 26	CCAFS Cafeteria
May 27	O&C Lobby

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Roth, 867-3414.

◆ **Call for papers for the KSC 2004 Research & Technology Report —** Articles, graphics and all associated information should be submitted electronically by May 17 at **http://set.ksc.nasa.gov/r&t/**, which is only available inside the KSC firewall. If an article is being authored by someone outside KSC, the author should forward it to the NASA/KSC contact for the project, who should then submit the article electronically. If an article contains information on technology that has been for patent consideration, please discuss the publication of this information with the KSC Patent Attorney, Randall Heald/CC-A, at 867-7214.

In the Web site, please click Submission Instructions to view full directions for preparation of draft articles and graphics and for other information on article submission.

◆ **Did You Know?** A group of NASA-supported researchers are going to be bouncing laser beams off the Moon to test one of the fundamental assumptions of modern physics, the Equivalence Principle. They'll use a new Moon-laser facility opening in New Mexico this fall, and some mirrors left behind on the Moon by Apollo astronauts 30 years ago. To read the full story, go to the Web site **http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/06may_lunarranging.htm**

KSC Countdown **is published every Tuesday & Thursday. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays.**
E-mail news to *Anita.Barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov*. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815
Find *KSC Countdown* on the Internet at http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/2004.htm