

# NASA News

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



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## **NASA WALLOPS SUPPORTING DISCOVERY MISSION**

When space shuttle Discovery returns to space July 1, personnel, radars and other instruments at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., will be poised to provide critical support to the mission.

Wallops radars track the shuttle, providing position data during the launch and throughout the mission. The facility's instruments provide a communication link between the shuttle and mission control at the NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. Wallops also tracks the position of the International Space Station before, during and after docking with the shuttle.

In addition, Wallops serves as an emergency landing site for Discovery.

During the 11 day mission, the seven-member crew of Discovery, designated STS-121, will test new equipment and procedures that will continue to improve the safety of the shuttles. The mission of STS-121 is to continue analysis of safety improvements that began on the Return to Flight mission, STS-114, launched July 2005, and to build upon those tests. Along with this testing, the shuttle will deliver supplies and cargo to the space station.

For information about the Space Shuttle Discovery's mission, visit:

**<http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>**

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