







THE MISSION

Space shuttle Discovery's six-member crew will deliver the Permanent Multipurpose Module (PMM) and the Express Logistics Carrier-4 (ELC-4) to the International Space Station on the STS-133 mission. The PMM is the last module a space shuttle will deliver for permanent attachment to the station.

During the 11-day flight, the PMM will be attached to the Earth-facing side of the Unity node and Discovery Mission Specialists Alvin Drew and Steve Bowen will make two spacewalks to upgrade and repair segments of the station's exterior. Bowen replaced astronaut Tim Kopra, who was injured in a bicycle accident in January 2011.

The PMM contains equipment, supplies and Robonaut 2 (R2). The logistics carrier contains critical spare components for the station.

R2 is a state-of-the-art dexterous humanoid astronaut helper that is designed to test a wide range of spacewalking tools and interfaces from inside the orbiting laboratory. R2 will join the station crew to help NASA obtain a more comprehensive knowledge of human and robotic interactions.

STS-133 is Discovery's 39th and last scheduled flight, the 133rd shuttle mission and the 35th flight to the space station.

THE CREW

Commander Steve Lindsey will lead the STS-133 crew on his fifth spaceflight. Eric Boe will serve as pilot on his second spaceflight. Mission specialists are Alvin Drew, Nicole Stott, Michael Barratt and Steve Bowen.

