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NASA Weekly Update

Week of February 23 – March 2, 2009

March 2: Technicians Continue Work on Discovery:

At NASA's Kennedy Space Center, technicians work on recharging the external fuel tank's feedline camera. Space shuttle Discovery's replacement three gaseous hydrogen flow control valves are expected to arrive at Kennedy tomorrow for installation. NASA's Space Shuttle Program has established a plan that could support shuttle Discovery's launch to the International Space Station, tentatively targeted for March 12. An exact target launch date will be determined as work progresses with the shuttle's three gaseous hydrogen flow control valves. At NASA's Kennedy Space Center



A technician holds one of Discovery's gaseous hydrogen flow control valves after its removal. The valves channel gaseous hydrogen from the main engines to the external tank.

in Florida, technicians have started removing Discovery's three valves, two of which will undergo detailed inspection. For STS-119 crew and mission information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

March 2: NASA Successfully Tests Parachute for Ares Rocket:

NASA and industry engineers successfully completed the second drop test of a drogue parachute for the Ares I rocket. The test took place Feb. 28 at the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving

Ground near Yuma, Ariz. The Ares I, the first launch vehicle in NASA's Constellation Program, will send explorers to the International Space Station, the moon and beyond in coming decades. When video from the test becomes available, it will air on NASA Television's Video File. For NASA TV information, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

Feb 26: NASA Statement about Budget Overview for Fiscal Year 2010:

Acting NASA Administrator Christopher J. Scolese said the following in response to the 2010 fiscal year budget overview for NASA released Feb. 26: "The \$18.7 billion budget proposal for 2010 is fiscally responsible and reflects the administration's desire for a robust and innovative agency aligned with the president's goals of advancing our nation's scientific, educational, economic and security interests. This budget ensures NASA maintains its global leadership in Earth and space research, and it advances global climate change studies, funds a robust program of human and robotic space exploration, allows us to realize the full potential of the International Space Station, advances development of new space transportation systems, and renews our commitment to aeronautics." For more information about the 2010 fiscal year overview, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/budget>. The president's full blueprint for the fiscal budget can be found at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget>.

March 2: NASA Flying Wing Model Soars into National Air and Space Museum:

A flying model NASA built to research futuristic aircraft designs will spend its future in the United States' premier air and space museum. The 12-foot wing span blended wing body, or BWB, model, used during wind tunnel flight tests at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., is on long-term loan to the "How Things Fly" gallery at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. To learn more about NASA's blended wing body research and view video of the model in flight in the Langley Full Scale Tunnel, click [here](#). Video of the of the blended wing body model on display at the National Air and Space

Museum, plus video of its use in wind tunnel tests at Langley, will air during NASA Television's Video File. For NASA TV downlink, schedule and streaming video information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>. For information about NASA's aeronautics research, visit: <http://aeronautics.nasa.gov>.

March 2: Public Invited to Submit Questions for NASA's Space Shuttle Launch: Space enthusiasts from across the United States and around the world are invited to submit questions about space shuttle Discovery's upcoming launch, its STS-119 mission to the International Space Station, and NASA space exploration. Questions may be answered on NASA Television during the countdown to launch. Questions can be submitted at: <http://webcast.ksc.nasa.gov>. For more information about the STS-119 crew and mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

Feb 27: NASA Awards Contract for Constellation Spacesuit for the Moon: NASA has awarded an interim letter contract to Oceaneering International Inc. of Houston to begin work on the design, development and production of a new spacesuit system for the Constellation Program. The system will protect astronauts during voyages to the International Space Station and exploration of the moon's surface. Animation of the new designs and more information about NASA's Constellation Program are available online at: <http://www.nasa.gov/constellation>.

Feb 27: NASA Awards Contract Modification for Engineering Technicians and Trades Support Services: NASA has signed a \$7.8 million contract modification with InfoPro Corporation for a continuation of engineering technicians and trades support services to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. The contract provides services that cover a wide range of engineering technicians and other trade skills to perform testing, ground and space-based research, test operations, data analysis, machine and electrical shop operations, and other technical activities.

Feb 25: NASA Awards Rotorcraft Technology Development Contract: NASA has selected three companies to receive a subsonic rotary wing technology development contract valued at \$40 million. The companies sharing the award are Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. of Hurst, Texas; The Boeing Company of Chicago; and Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. of Stratford, Conn. This is a cost plus fixed fee, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract with a five-year period of performance beginning Feb. 25, 2009. For more information about NASA's aeronautics research

programs, visit: <http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov>.

Feb 25: NASA Names Chairman for Orbiting Carbon Observatory Investigation: NASA's Rick Obenshain, deputy director at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., will lead the investigation board for the unsuccessful launch of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory on Feb. 24. The Mishap Investigation Board, or MIB, will have four other members. The board will gather information, analyze the facts, and identify the failure's cause or causes and contributing factors. For information about the Orbiting Carbon Observatory failed launch and investigation, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/oco>.

Feb 25: NASA Announces 2009 Astronomy and Astrophysics Fellows: NASA has selected fellows in three areas of astronomy and astrophysics for its Einstein, Hubble, and Sagan Fellowships. The recipients of this year's post-doctoral fellowships will conduct independent research at institutions around the country. Each fellowship provides support to the awardees for three years. A full list of the 2009 fellows and other information about these programs is available at: <http://cxc.harvard.edu/fellows>. For information about NASA's Astrophysics Division, visit: <http://nasascience.nasa.gov/astrophysics>.

Feb 25: NASA Announces Winners of 2008 George M. Low Award for Quality: NASA has presented its premier honor for quality and performance, the George M. Low Award, to three companies that share a commitment to teamwork, technical and managerial excellence, safety, and customer service. The 2008 Low Awards were presented Feb. 25 at NASA's sixth annual Project Management Challenge in Daytona Beach, Fla., to: ARES Corporation, The Boeing Company, and Oceaneering Space Systems. The agency also recognized one finalist, United Space Alliance at Johnson. For information about the award, visit: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codeq/gml>.



Upcoming Events

March 12 (targeted): Space Shuttle Discovery launch on the STS-119 mission to the International Space Station.

March 6: Kepler launch on a United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket from CCAFS, FL.

April 1: STSS Demonstrators Program. Launched by NASA for the Missile Defense Agency on a United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket from CCAFS, FL.

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