

Thursday, December 9, 1999

STS-103 crew at KSC to prepare for launch



Learn about KSC2000 plans during internal TV briefing next week



▲ **Shuttle Update:** Shuttle managers have decided to delay the start of the STS-103 launch countdown by at least 24 hours while engineers evaluate a dented main propulsion system hydrogen line found during closeout inspections of Discovery's engine compartment. A final

decision on whether or not the line must be replaced is expected later today. If the line requires replacement, it is likely the work would postpone launch by a minimum of several days. The four-inch diameter line carries liquid hydrogen fuel for the Space Shuttle main engines.



The Discovery crew (above) is at KSC, making final launch preparations. The photo shows the astronauts just after their arrival at the SLF Monday night. From left are Mission Specialist Claude Nicollier of Switzerland, Pilot Scott J. Kelly, Mission Specialist C. Michael Foale (Ph.D.), Commander Curtis L. Brown Jr. (at microphone), and Mission Specialists John M. Grunsfeld (Ph.D.), Jean-François Clervoy of France, and Steven L. Smith.

▲ **Center Director Roy Bridges** will be addressing KSC employees on KSC TV next week about recommendations from the KSC2000 team on the Center's reorganization and plans for the future. Further details about the coverage will be announced in Tuesday's Dec. 14 issue of Countdown.

◆ **STS-101 Crew at SPACEHAB:** The crew for the scheduled March launch of STS-101, the third flight to the International Space Station, is at SPACEHAB in Titusville for training on various equipment. The mission payload will include the SPACEHAB Logistics Double Module and Integrated Cargo Container, a Space Experiment Module, and MARS - Mission to America's Remarkable Schools.

◆ **Be Briefed:** The L-1 briefings are now available on KSC's Home Page on the Web at <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/briefing>. The L-1 briefings (launch minus one day) are normally given the day before a Shuttle launch to a limited number of VIPs who have been invited by NASA to attend the launch. They contain a wealth of information about KSC and how the Shuttle is prepared for launch and recovered after a mission. The Web page also includes insider insights relative to the crew, science and payloads of the impending mission, plus links to the **photos** and **videos** used during the actual briefing, as well as the presenters of the briefing.

◆ **Vision Testing:** Visual and glaucoma testing is available Tuesday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Occupational Health Facility.

◆ **Did You Know?** There are just 15 shopping days left until Christmas.

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

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Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/1999/1999.htm>