

Tuesday, March 30, 1999

## Russian cargo crane focus of familiarization for two Shuttle crews



## Chandra is prepped for fueling in April

▲ **Space Shuttle Update:** The new target launch date for STS-96 is May 24. The STS-96 crew completed familiarization activities at KSC last week, joining the STS-101 crew at Astrotech Titusville, Fla., for a hands-on look (see photo) at the Russian cargo crane, the Strehla. The crane will be mounted to the exterior of a Russian International Space Station segment. *[In the photo, left to right, are STS-96 Mission Specialist Daniel T. Barry, Pilot Rick Douglas Husband, Mission Specialist Tamara E. Jernigan, a technician with DaimlerChrysler, and STS-101 Mission Specialist Edward Tsang Lu].*



▲ The **solar array panels** have been installed on the Chandra X-ray Observatory, and testing of the mechanical and electrical interfaces is under way. The spacecraft is due to be moved from its test stand Thursday, April 1, onto a fueling stand. The fueling is planned to begin on Monday, April 5, and will take 10 days to complete. The bi-propellant hydrazine and nitrogen tetroxide fuels will be used by the telescope to achieve its final orbit. In addition, the hydrazine will be used by one of the telescope's subsystems that points the telescope.

◆ **Make a Note:** The telephone number for the J-BOSC Help Desk/Care Center has changed due to its relocation to the Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) building last week. The new telephone **number is 867-5010.**

◆ **No April Fool's Joke:** Effective April 1, the NASA/KSC government-owned refueling facility (M6-689) will be permanently closed. The NASA Citgo Station will service all refueling for GSA vehicles using the GSA vehicle credit card. The Contractors Road refueling site (K6-1345) will be converted from the current gas key operation to credit card acceptance.

◆ **Road Work Planned:** During April, crews will be paving the northbound lanes of **Kennedy Parkway** from Gate 2 to 5th St. (Gate 2A) and the **intersection at E Ave. and NASA Parkway** (the road to the Space flight Tracking and Data Network Station) between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Drivers can expect impact to the traffic flow during those hours. Please use caution.

◆ **Did You Know?** You can have an advance copy of KSC Countdown sent directly to your e-mail box? Just request it in a message to the editor sent to the address shown below.

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