

Thursday, August 31, 2000

Sept. 8 official launch date set for STS-106



KSC/CCAFS plans Community Appreciation Day on Nov. 4



▲ **Mission Update:** Shuttle managers reviewed mission preparations on Tuesday and set Sept. 8 as the launch date for Atlantis on STS-106. Lift-off is planned for 8:45 a.m. EDT, with a window of less than five minutes. During the planned 11-day flight, the crew of seven will spend a week docked to the International Space Station unloading more than 1-1/2 tons of equipment and supplies from both the Shuttle and a docked Russian Progress cargo craft. While Atlantis is docked to the Station, Mission Specialists Edward Lu and Yuri Malenchenko are scheduled to perform one space walk to conduct assembly tasks. Atlantis is scheduled to land at KSC at about 4 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

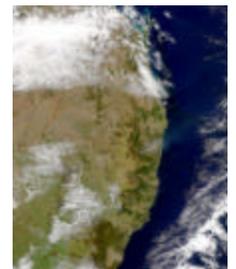


▲ **KSC Doors To Open to Community:** Center Director Roy Bridges and 45th Space Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Donald Pettit have decided to open their facilities to the local community for the first KSC/CCAFS Community Appreciation Day. On Nov. 4, KSC and CCAFS will open their doors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to a select number of car pass holders from the surrounding community. KSC and CCAFS will have the opportunity to share the excitement of their people, unique facilities and one-of-a-kind launch vehicles with visitors who might otherwise not have an opportunity to be this close to the space program again. Car passes for employees will be available at KSC Exchange stores and at all Brevard County libraries in mid-October. The Open House committee will provide updates in coming issues of *KSC Countdown*, *Spaceport News* and the *10 O'Clock News*.

◆ **25th Anniversary of American-Russian Cooperation in Space:** Decades before work began on the International Space Station, a rendezvous 140 miles above the Atlantic Ocean saw then-confrontational nations, who were locked in the middle of the Cold War, make history as partners. It was 25 years ago that astronauts Tom Stafford, Vance Brand, and Donald "Deke" Slayton docked with the Soviet Union's Soyuz to forge the framework for future partnerships in space with Russia and other nations. On the anniversary week of that mission, Brand, who now is deputy director of aerospace projects at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, Calif., retold the tale of that historic mission. "We opened a crack in the door regarding communication between the two superpowers," Brand said. "Apollo-Soyuz was the first for this kind of cooperation." For the full story, go to <http://www.dfrc.nasa.gov/PAO/X-Press/2000/Aug25/frontfull0.html>.

◆ Looking for pictures of Earth?

Try the new NASA Web site Visible Earth, which provides a searchable directory of images, visualizations and animations of the Earth on a daily basis. Yesterday the image at right showed several smoke plumes visible along Australia's east coast. Sydney is at the bottom center of the image; Fraser Island is at the top. For more, go to <http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>.



◆ **Did You Know?** Monday, Sept. 4, is Labor Day, a federal holiday. ★

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/2000/2000.htm>