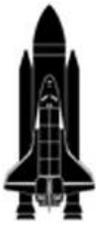


Thursday, Nov. 16, 2000

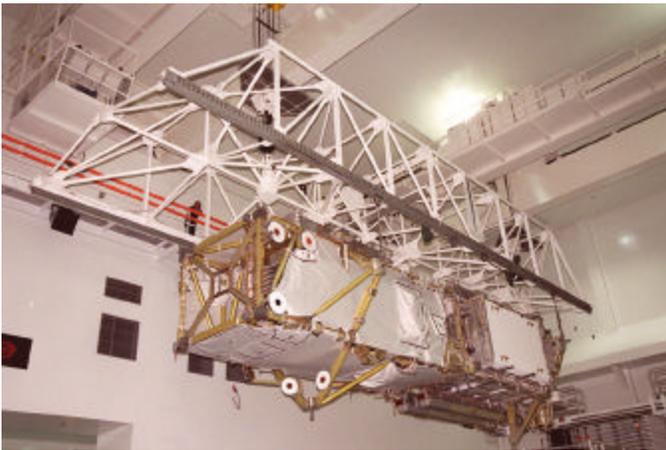
## STS-97 payload being installed in Endeavour



## Million-year-old star confirmed by Hubble



▲ **Mission Update:** There are only two weeks until launch of STS-97, carrying the first visitors to the Expedition One crew on the International Space Station. STS-97 will also be carrying the P6 truss, which was transferred to the payload changeout room at Launch Pad 39B on Tuesday, Nov. 14. The photo below shows the P6 being carried across the SSPF to the payload transport canister. The P6 comprises Solar Array Wing-3 and the Integrated Electronic Assembly. The eight photovoltaic solar arrays, each 112 feet long by 39 feet wide, will convert sunlight to electricity. The solar arrays are mounted on a “blanket” that can be folded like an accordion for delivery. Once in orbit, the astronauts will deploy the blankets to their full size. Gimbals will be used to rotate the arrays so that they will face the Sun to provide maximum power to the Space Station. The payload will be installed in Endeavour’s payload bay today. The Flight Readiness Review



takes place Friday, Nov. 17.

▲ **Hubble Sees Lone Neutron Star Streaking Across Galaxy:** Several hundred million neutron stars may be found in our galaxy, but NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has caught up with a runaway believed to be 200 light years away. The object known as RX J185635-3754 is expected to swing by the Earth at a safe distance in about 300,000 years. A neutron star is the remnants left behind after a supernova explosion, as the material at the core collapses into a dense mass of neutrons. The star has the mass of the sun packed into an area about 12 miles in diameter. Precise observations made with the Hubble telescope confirm the isolated interstellar traveler is now located in the southern constellation Corona Australis.

◆ **Brevard Community College (BCC) Registration for Spring 2001:** Registration begins Monday, Nov. 20. Spring schedules are now available from the college and BCC will deliver them to the lobbies of larger buildings as soon as they arrive. Some courses include Microsoft Office 2000, Web Page Authoring, Reflexology, Tai Chi, ABC's of Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs, Health Issues the Natural Way, and many others. Call BCC at 449-5046 for more information. The Spring 2001 schedule also can be found on the Web at <http://web2.brevard.cc.fl.us/>.

◆ **Did You Know?** The Citco Service Station located near Headquarters now only has access from the east end service entrance. The C Ave. entrance is blocked to all traffic. Use the 3rd St. entrance for access to the fuel pumps. Due to the new traffic pattern, please use caution when driving near the service station. For further assis-

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

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

E-mail - [Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Anita.Barrett-1@ksc.nasa.gov) ◆ Mail Code - IDI-011 ◆ Telephone - 867-2815

Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/2000/2000.htm>

tance, call Joan McGilvray at 453-1254. ★