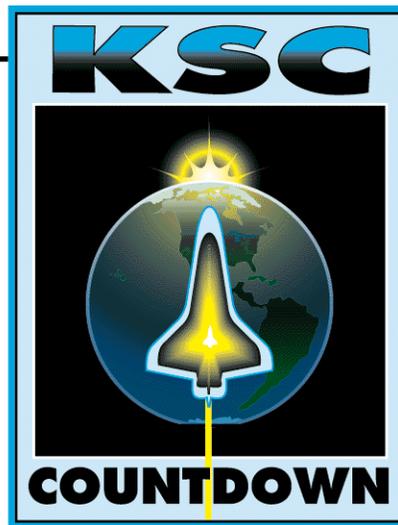


Three spacecraft poised to launch in next four months



O'Keefe discusses survey results today on NASA TV

▲ **ELV Updates:** NASA's **Gravity Probe B** spacecraft is scheduled to launch aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket at 1:01:20 p.m. EDT April 19 from NASA's Space Launch Complex 2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Should the launch be postponed 24 hours for any reason, the launch time is 12:57:24 p.m. EDT.

MESSENGER is at the Astrotech Space Operations facilities for prelaunch testing. The spacecraft will be moved from its current location in the hazardous processing facility, where it has been since arrival, to an adjacent non-hazardous payload processing facility. The remainder of its final assembly and testing will be completed there. The spacecraft will return to the hazardous processing facility when ready for fueling, spin balance testing and mating to the upper stage. **MESSENGER** is scheduled to launch July 30 from CCAFS.

NASA's **Aura** spacecraft, the latest in the Earth Observing System (EOS) series, arrived at Vandenberg Air Force Base April 1 to begin launch preparations. Packed in a special shipping container, **Aura** was transported from Northrop Grumman Space Technology (NGST) in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Last week the Spacecraft Aliveness Test was conducted on **Aura**. This test verifies the spacecraft's state of health after its trip from Redondo Beach. This week the Spacecraft Comprehensive Performance Test will begin. This is a test of **Aura**'s instruments and onboard systems. **Aura**'s four state-of-the-art instruments will study the dynamics of chemistry occurring in the atmosphere. The spacecraft will provide data to help scientists better understand the Earth's ozone, air quality and climate changes. The EOS **Aura** satellite, instruments and science investigations are managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Launch is scheduled for June 17 from Vandenberg AFB.

▲ NASA Update: Safety Climate and Culture Survey Results.



Please tune into NASA TV today at 1:30 p.m. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe is holding an important edition of NASA Update to discuss the culture change effort in more detail.

◆ **Space Plates on sale next week** – On April 19 and 20, representatives from the Brevard County Tax Collectors Office will be on site at KSC selling the new Challenger-Columbia specialty license plate – known as the “Space Plate” – to employees. This is a convenient opportunity to purchase the new Space Plate, which raises funds for space education, technology training and workforce development programs throughout the state. On April 19, the plate will be sold in the HQ Building Cafeteria from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Multifunction Facility (MFF) Cafeteria. On April 20, the plate will be sold only in the MFF cafeteria, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. The cost of the plate is \$27. Current registration, proof of Florida insurance coverage, and photo identification are required for purchase. Cash, check or credit card payments (Visa, MasterCard and Discover) will be accepted. Plates will be mailed to customers. Personalized plates will take an additional 45 days for manufacture and issuance.

◆ **Did You Know?** Women's Center for Radiology will have its mobile mammography unit at KSC on Wednesday, April 21, for breast cancer screening. The van will be located in the parking lot behind the HQ Building. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 800-367-1870. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Roth, 867-3414.