



countdown

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NASA TV to cover liftoff, flight of new ISS resupply ship

◆ **ISS Update:** NASA Television coverage of the maiden launch of the European Space Agency's "Jules Verne" Automated Transfer Vehicle, or ATV, to the International Space Station will begin at 10:15 p.m. Saturday.

Liftoff of the ATV on an Ariane 5 rocket is set for 11:04 p.m. from the launch site in Kourou, French Guiana. Television coverage originating from the launch site will be provided by ESA and Arianespace. The launch coverage will air live on NASA TV and will include supplementary coverage originating from NASA's Johnson Space Center.

The ATV launch window is instantaneous. NASA TV will continue its coverage until the ATV's solar arrays are deployed, about one hour and 36 minutes after launch.

If the launch is postponed, another opportunity is available Sunday. NASA TV coverage would begin at 10:45 p.m.

The ATV will reach its preliminary orbit about nine minutes after liftoff. At that time, its engines will fire for eight minutes to place the spacecraft into an elliptical orbit. About 45 minutes later, a second engine firing will circularize the ATV's orbit prior to spacecraft separation.

The ATV is a 22-ton unpowered resupply ship that will carry up to eight tons of cargo to the complex. The vehicle will have the capability to reboost the station's altitude through its four primary engines. Along with the Russian Progress cargo craft that periodically carry supplies to the station, the ATV also will transport equipment, experiments and fuel to the complex. The spacecraft will

be controlled by engineers at the ESA ATV Control Center in Toulouse, France, working together with flight controllers at the Russian Mission Control Center in Korolev, outside Moscow, and at Johnson.

Once in orbit, the ATV will undergo four weeks of extensive systems tests, including two approaches to the station to simulate rendezvous and contingency techniques. NASA TV will provide live coverage of the automated flight activities for the ATV when it is in close proximity to the station on March 31 and when it docks on April 3, including a post-docking briefing from Johnson.

The ATV will remain at the space station until early August. When it undocks, it will perform a deorbit maneuver to burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Launches to the station of additional ATVs are planned in future years.

◆ **ELV Update:** (Below) NASA's Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope, called GLAST, arrived at the Astrotech payload processing facility Tuesday to begin prelaunch activities. The spacecraft was removed from its shipping container in preparation for a complete checkout of the telescope's scientific instruments. Two sets of solar arrays and the Ku-band antenna will be attached.



GLAST will launch aboard a Delta II rocket May 16 from

NASA's newest telescope arrives for launch preps

Launch Pad 17-B on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. A powerful space observatory, the GLAST will explore the most extreme environments in the universe, and answer questions about supermassive black hole systems, pulsars and the origin of cosmic rays. It also will study the mystery of powerful explosions known as gamma-ray bursts.



University of Miami Distance Learning Informational Visit at Kennedy —

The program administrator for the University of Miami Distance Learning Program, Augusto Roca, will be at the HQ Building/ Room 3153 from 9 to 11 a.m. on March 14. Roca will answer questions about courses to be offered for the Master of Science in industrial engineering degree with a concentration in systems engineering (April and summer 2008), Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering (summer 2008), and the Master of Science degree in management of technology (fall 2008).

If you would like general information about the programs, an application or a brochure prior to the visit, please call Roca at 305-284-4100 or send an e-mail to augusto@miami.edu. Contractor and civil servant employees are invited to attend this informational session.

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