



Spaceport News

America's gateway to the universe. Leading the world in preparing and launching missions to Earth and beyond.

<http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/snews/snewstoc.htm>

John F. Kennedy Space Center

40th anniversary Spaceport News special edition

July 1 will mark the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Launch Operation Center (LOC), now known as Kennedy Space Center.

In honor of our 40th year of operation, *Spaceport News* will take readers on a journey back to the early days of KSC in the coming special edition.

The 16-page color commemorative issue will be published July 12.

Many NASA and contractor retirees and employees who started working in the space program 40 years or more ago have shared their photographs and memories with *Spaceport News* to help highlight our early heritage at the Cape Canaveral Spaceport.

STS-107 devoted to research

With more than 40 experiments and payloads traveling on Columbia, Space Shuttle Mission STS-107 is designated a research flight.

The 16-day mission also is an Extended Duration Orbiter mission.

At press time launch, which had originally been set for July 19, was delayed a few weeks to allow inspections of Columbia's flow liners because of safety concerns.

The SPACEHAB-Research Double Module (RDM) is to serve as the primary payload for the mission. It will be the first flight of the new SPACEHAB-RDM, which provides an enhanced science capability over previous modules.

Fast Reaction Experiments Enabling Science, Technology, Applications and Research (FREESTAR) is the secondary Hitchhiker payload. It consists of separate experiments and the Hitchhiker Carrier avionics mounted on a cross-bay Hitchhiker Multipurpose Equipment Support Structure. The Hitchhiker Carrier avionics provide the interface to



During a Crew Equipment Interface Test the STS-107 crew looks at flight equipment in the Orbiter Processing Facility. From left are Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon (with the Israeli Space Agency), Pilot William "Willie" McCool (center), Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla and Commander Rick Husband.

the electrical systems, the payload power control, and command and telemetry capabilities. One FREESTAR experiment is made up of 11 U.S. student experiments.

The STS-107 research will

investigate human physiology, fire suppression and other areas of research relevant to people across the globe.

It will be Columbia's 28th flight and the 111th Shuttle mission.

Inside

Page 2 – 45th Space Wing has new commander. Take our Children to Work Day planned.



Pages 3-6 – 2001 Honor Awards in "Recognizing Our People."

Page 7 – Hypergol Support Building No. 2 dedicated.

Page 8 – 20th anniversary of the launch of the first Get Away Special canister.

CONTOUR to probe two comets

Set to visit and study at least two comets, NASA's Comet Nucleus Tour (CONTOUR) should provide the first detailed look at the differences between these primitive building blocks of the solar system, and answer questions about how comets act and evolve.

CONTOUR is scheduled to liftoff from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on a three-stage Boeing Delta II expendable launch vehicle during a 25-day launch window that opens July 1 at 2:56 a.m. (EDT).

The spacecraft will orbit Earth until Aug. 15, when it should fire its main engine and enter a comet-chasing orbit around the sun.

The launch is being managed by Kennedy Space Center, the lead center for acquisition and management of Expendable Launch Vehicle services.

CONTOUR's flexible four-year mission plan includes encounters with comets Encke, Nov. 12, 2003, and

(See CONTOUR, Page 8)



The Comet Nucleus Tour (CONTOUR) spacecraft is processed in the Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Facility 2. The spacecraft is set for launch July 1.

Pavlovich takes command of 45th Space Wing

Since taking command of the 45th Space Wing June 7, Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich has been quickly getting up to speed on the Cape Canaveral Spaceport.

Pavlovich recently took time out to summarize his impressions, challenges and goals for the wing as it heads into the future.

On a national level, the general views the wing playing a vital role in national defense and supporting commercial and scientific launches – including those for NASA – as well as governing the 15-million-square-mile Eastern Range.

“We continue to lead the number of launches from the East Coast and are expected to do so for the foreseeable future,” he said. “No one should have a doubt about the 45th Space Wing’s future.

“We’ll continue our great partnerships with federal, state and local governments and commercial



Brig. Gen. Greg Pavlovich is the new 45th Space Wing commander.

industry that are essential to future success.

“It’s clear the Air Force must remain engaged in the design, development and operation of space lift systems and the launch and test ranges we operate. And we

cannot afford to lose the space lift expertise we have in the Air Force today, only to be forced to recreate it when, and if, we begin operating our own systems again in the future.”

On the local level, the general likes to see people and organizations going the extra mile and pushing the envelope on new ideas.

“Nothing that is, has to be because it was,” is the motto he lives by. He believes that when people stretch to excel, missions are brought to new heights.

“We’ll break eggs when we need to break eggs,” Pavlovich said. “Just because it’s the way we always did it doesn’t mean it’s necessarily the right or best way to do something.

“I always look for opportunities to do new things. I like folks who challenge the way we do business

in order to look for greater opportunities.”

Living and working by the Air Force’s core values – “Integrity first, Service before self and Excellence in all we do” – is paramount to keeping the 45th Space Wing on the cutting edge, according to Gen. Pavlovich.

“Excellence in all we do needs to be our guiding principle,” he said. “We are in a business that cannot afford mistakes. Safety must always be paramount. We can never, ever have the American people lose trust in how we conduct our mission here on the Space Coast.”

The general is no stranger to the spaceport. He served as the 45th Logistics Group commander from June 1996 to January 1998.

“The folks here now are just as professional, if not more so, than I remember when I left in 1998,” Pavlovich said.

Take our Children to Work Day set for July 11

Kennedy Space Center will celebrate Take Our Children to Work Day July 11.

The Center will open its doors for the 10th year for children of KSC employees. KSC employees are invited to bring a son or daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew, or a neighbor’s child to work with them on that day to share the work experience.

The special day targets children from 9 to 15 years old.

“We hope this event will help encourage children to set goals for their future, and to build on these goals during their years in school,” said Patti Phelps, event coordinator.

Several exciting educational programs are planned and a Special Take Our Children to Work Day menu will be available at all KSC cafeterias

To participate children must be 9 years of age or older.

Program hours are from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Parents or sponsors may bring badged children to work with them through Gates 1, 2, and 3.

Because of present security conditions, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station will not be participat-



ing in this year’s event. However, they will allow access for NASA and KSC contractors working at NASA facilities on CCAFS to take their children to their work areas, as long as they are properly badged, escorted, and it is not a controlled access area.

All children must wear their badge and be with a badged employee at all times. The sponsor is responsible for the children they bring – the child may go with another person to another work site, but ultimate responsibility remains with the sponsor.

Children may not be taken to any work area requiring a controlled access badge. Personnel working in these areas, which include the Vehicle Assembly Building, Orbiter Processing Facility, Operations and Checkout Building and Space

Station Processing Facility, may arrange for another person to take their child to an approved area.

Federal Women’s Program Working Group members will issue badges to children of NASA employees July 8, 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Headquarters Building Lobby and the Operations Support Building Lobby.

Peggy Parrish will issue badges to NASA employees at CCAFS on the same dates and times. Parrish is located at the Hangar I Annex and she can be reached at 476-4000.

Contractor employees should contact their public affairs office or human resources office to obtain badges and determine the level of participation available to them, as not all contractors are participating.

Among special events planned for the day

- A For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics demonstration will be held at the Headquarters Building and at the Operations Support Building. Times will be announced closer to the date.
- A special tour of KSC may be taken by KSC employees and their children. Tickets must be pur-

chased in person July 8-11 at any window in the Ticket Pavilion at the KSC Visitor Complex.

Tickets for both adults and children will be \$9.92 and will be good for July 11 only.

Sponsors may bring as many children as they wish on the tour, but no unaccompanied children will be allowed. Visitors may stay at the tour stops for as long as they wish. Access to the Visitor Complex and Tours will require security checks.

• For children of NASA employees, an additional program is planned at the KSC Visitor Center Complex. The program from 8 to 9 a.m. will include special keynote speaker Shuttle Vehicle Manager Kelvin Manning and a science demonstration by the Exploration Station.

Participants must arrive early enough to go through the required security checks. Please remember sharp objects and large backpacks and coolers are not allowed.

If there are any individuals who require a sign language interpreter for the NASA program, please contact Debbie Houston at 867-6923 or Wanda Petty at 867-9165 no later than July 3.

Recognizing Our People

2001 Kennedy Space Center Honor Awards

Exceptional Bravery Medal

This NASA award is granted to an individual who, independent of personal danger, has acted in an exemplary manner to prevent the loss of human life or Government or for the courageous handling of an emergency. The recipients pictured (from left) with Center Director Roy Bridges were Kevin Keenan, The Boeing Co.; Mary Kirkland, Bionetics Corp.; and Larry Collins, United Space Alliance.



Meritorious Executive Rank Award

Each year, our Government recognizes and celebrates a small group of career senior executives with the Presidential Rank Award. Recipients of this prestigious award have demonstrated their ability to lead a Government that delivers great service, fosters partnerships and community solutions to achieve results, and continuously pushes itself to get the job done more effectively and efficiently.

The Meritorious Executive award is given for long-term accomplishments. Only 5 percent of career senior executives may receive the award.

The following individuals were honored:

Roy Bridges Jr., Center Director
 Larry Ellis, Director, Operations and Support at Stennis Space Center
 James Hattaway Jr., Director, Procurement Office
 David King, Director, Shuttle Processing
 John "Tip" Talone, Director, ISS/Payloads Processing

Outstanding Leadership Medal

The NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal is awarded for notably outstanding leadership that has had a pronounced effect upon the technical or administrative programs of NASA.

The award may be given for an act of leadership or for sustained contributions based on an individual's effectiveness as a leader, the productivity of an individual's program, or demonstrated ability to develop the administrative or technical talents of other employees. The following individuals were honored:

Shannon Bartell, Safety, Health & Independent Assessment Directorate
 Darren Bedell, ELV & Payload Carriers Programs
 Ronald Gillett, Spaceport Engineering & Technology Directorate
 Cheryl Hurst, Procurement Office
 Michael Sumner, Spaceport Services Directorate
 Michael Wetmore, Shuttle Processing Directorate

NASA Public Service Medal

The NASA Public Service Medal is granted for exceptional contributions to the mission of NASA. The following individuals were honored:

George Berry, United Space Alliance
 David Bethay, The Boeing Co.
 Patrick Carlton, United Space Alliance
 Stephen Hawkins, OAO Corp.
 Harold Herring, Computer Sciences Raytheon Inc.
 Barbara LeDuke, Dynacs Inc.
 Janice Lendeman, OAO Corp.
 Richard Murphy, The Boeing Co.
 Jeanette Petrolia, Delaware North Park Services
 Dr. Fatima Caroline Phillips, Bionetics Corp.
 Terrill Risley, United Space Alliance
 Dennis Roberts, Space Gateway Support
 Stephen Shannon, The Boeing Co.

KSC Strategic Leadership Award

The Strategic Leadership Award embodies the future direction of KSC through demonstrated leadership and initiative, drive, break through performance and change; production of results; action on problems and implementation of solutions; and, supporting, encouraging, and motivating others to make forward-looking choices on behalf of NASA and KSC. It recognizes and motives employees' commitment in supporting and implementing the Agency, enterprise, strategic plans, and the KSC Implementation Plan. John Madura of Spaceport Engineering & Technology Directorate was honored for exemplifying strategic leadership by identifying situations before they become problems; assembling and inspiring teams that turn these situations into opportunities; and for using the opportunities to develop improved processes and capabilities that increase safety and reduce cost and delay.

NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award

The NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award is an award given to a group of non-Government employees in recognition of an outstanding accomplishment, which has contributed substantially to the NASA mission. Teams honored were:

Solid Rocket Booster Retrieval Team. For the quick and immediate response to a medical emergency that resulted in saving the life of a fellow co-worker.

Category I Document Evaluation & Restructure Activity Core Team. In recognition of exceptional efforts of the team to implement improvements to all active/planned work instructions maintained by the United Space Alliance.

Load Break Switch Replacement Team. In recognition of outstanding contributions in the support of safety and launch operations.

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Atlas Team. For providing reliable, low-cost, on-time launch services in support of the NASA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite missions.

Pad B Sound Suppression 48-Inch Valve Replacement Team. For exceptional dedication, professionalism, and diligence during the installation of the new sound suppression valves and dresser couplings at Pad B.

Personal Access Security System (PASS) Development Team. In recognition of outstanding work and attention to customer satisfaction in completing recent upgrades to the Personal Access Security System.

Quick Disconnect Leak Check Team. In recognition of exceptional teamwork, commitment and can-do attitude in the assessment, planning, and implementation of S0 Truss Quick Disconnect Leak checks.

S0 Acceptance Test Team. In recognition of outstanding effort, teamwork, and commitment to excellence in the performance of acceptance testing on the S0 Truss.

The Applied Meteorology Unit. For exemplary effectiveness in the development and transition of operations, techniques and software to improve weather support to the Nation's Space Program.

United Space Alliance Operations and Maintenance Documentation Planning and Production Department. In recognition of the outstanding contributions made by the USA to improve written work instructions, thereby enhancing the quality and safety of the Space Shuttle Program.

Vehicle Assembly Building Utility Annex Storage Tank System Modification Team. In recognition of significant contributions to the modifications of the Vehicle Assembly Building Utility Annex Storage Tank System, ensuring the Safety, Reliability and Regulatory compliance of the KSC Industrial Area Heating and Cooling System capabilities.

Kennedy Space Center Wetlands Restoration Support Team. In recognition of outstanding effort in preparation of the NASA Wetlands Restoration Plan for Future Development.

Exceptional Achievement Medal

The NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal is awarded for a significant contribution, specific accomplishment, or contribution clearly characterized by a substantial or significant improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology which contributes to the mission of NASA. The following individuals were honored:

- Michael Carney, ELV & Payload Carriers Programs
- Alan Gettleman, Safety, Health & Independent Assessment Directorate
- John Gurecki III, ISS/Payloads Processing Directorate
- Scott Huzar, Spaceport Engineering & Technology Directorate
- Cheryl Malloy, ELV & Payload Carriers Programs
- Pamela Steel, External Relations and Business Development Directorate
- Richard Stevens, Spaceport Engineering & Technology Directorate
- Geoffrey Swanson, Office of the Chief Counsel
- Jan Zysko, Spaceport Engineering & Technology Directorate

KSC Director's Award

The Director's Award is the highest award that the Center confers on an employee. The award honors an employee who has exemplified through personal effort and innovation the highest standards and commitment to the application of continual improvement principles and practices or for the accomplishment of a job-related task of such magnitude and merit as to deserve special Center recognition.

The award recipient was Russell Romanella of ISS/Payloads Processing Directorate for exceptional performance and outstanding contributions to organizational structure and for management implementation of Kennedy Space Center objectives.

His overall contribution in providing key management leadership in developing and implementing the processes that allowed for such major successes as Multi-Element Integrated Testing, ISO 9000 recertifications, Acquisition Strategy for the CAPPs, and overall support to the International Space Station Program from KSC during the most critical phase of the program to date make him deserving of this distinguished award.



KSC employees recognized with Honor Awards

Kennedy Space Center held its annual Honor Awards Ceremony on June 20 in the IMAX II Theater at the KSC Visitors Complex.

NASA and contractor employees and work teams were recognized for contributions they made to KSC during 2001. Their coworkers and families were in attendance.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at the Visitors Complex' Debus Conference Facility.

Both NASA and KSC awards were given.

A description of the awards and the winners are listed on Pages 3-6 in this Recognizing our People special section.



Kennedy Space Center 2001 Honor Awards Visitors Complex' Debus Conference Facility

NASA Group Achievement Award

The NASA Group Achievement Award is given in recognition of an outstanding accomplishment that has been made through the coordination of many individual efforts and has contributed substantially to the accomplishment of the NASA mission.

This award recognizes the accomplishments of either a total Government employee group or a group comprised of both Government and non-Government personnel. Teams honored were:

Checkout & Launch Control Systems Performance Measurement Team. For developing and implementing an excellent approach for measuring Checkout & Launch Control Systems project performance.

Expendable Launch Vehicle Program Communications and Telemetry Team. For outstanding long-term service in providing reliable and innovative support to the communications needs of the Expendable Launch Vehicle Program and Project.

Hazardous Gas Detection System Upgrade Group. For extraordinary achievement during the design and implementation of the Hazardous Gas Detection System upgrade.

Kennedy Space Center Administrative Telephone System Upgrade Project Team. In recognition of an outstanding effort, teamwork, and commitment to excellence in the implementation of the new telephone switching equipment and the migration of customer end-instruments to the single-line concept.

Kodiak Star Mission Integration and Launch Team. In recognition of the outstanding individual dedication and innovation contributing to the success of the Kodiak Star mission.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Dynacs Laboratory Consolidation Team. For an outstanding team effort in establishing and maintaining test and measuring equipment calibration processes for the Spaceport Engineering & Technology Labs and Testbeds Division.

Mobile Base System Integrated Functional Test Team. For exceptional execution of International Space Station risk mitigation testing.

Special Test Equipment Team. In recognition of exceptional teamwork and extraordinary effort that resulted in the assessment, planning, and implementation of Special Test Equipment upgrades at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Depot and Vendor Facilities.

Vehicle Assembly Building Safe Haven Team. In recognition of outstanding teamwork during the conceptualization, study, design, and construction to provide for the creation of a Safe Haven in the Vehicle Assembly Building.

NASA Exceptional Service Medal

The NASA Exceptional Service Medal is awarded for significant performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements or contributions in engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support, or space-related endeavors that contribute to the mission of NASA. The following individuals were honored:

Stephen Altemus, Shuttle Processing Directorate
 Martha Grace Bell, Chief Financial Office
 Calvin Burch, Spaceport Services Directorate
 Josephine Burnett, Workforce & Diversity Management Office
 Jane Kleinschmidt, Center Director
 Susan Kroskey, Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office
 Douglass Lyons, Shuttle Processing Directorate
 Philip Phillips, Shuttle Processing Directorate
 Arnold Postell, Shuttle Processing Directorate
 Gary Powers, ISS/Payloads Processing Directorate
 Robert Sturm, ISS/Payloads Processing Directorate
 James Thompson, Workforce & Diversity Management Office



winners and their coworkers and families celebrate at a reception at the KSC

KSC Certificate of Commendation

This award recognizes exceptional individual accomplishment or outstanding direction or management of a program or program segment that affects the entire Center or contributes significantly to the Center's mission.

Those individuals commended were:

- Linda Adams, QA
- Gale Allen, XA
- David Alonso, TA
- Peter Aragona, PH
- James Ball, XA
- Clinton Bartley, TA
- Greg Breznik, PH
- Karon Buchner, UB
- Brian Burns, GG
- David Bush, UB
- Charles Chapman, YA
- George Clark Jr., YA
- Terry Crowley, OP
- Frank Der, TA
- Julius Edelmann Jr., PH
- Douglas England, TA
- Guy Etheridge, YA
- Dian Farmer, GG
- Tracey Fredrickson, QA
- Jack Gardner, UB
- Dicksy Hansen, BA
- Jeanine Hoyle, BA
- Thomas Hull, JP
- Craig Jacobson, UB
- Gloria Johnson, YA
- Chau Ba Le, YA
- Steven Lewis, UB
- James Lichtenthal, QA
- Alan Littlefield, YA
- Kathy Luse, GG
- Dr. Francis Merceret, YA
- Steven Milton, UB
- Elizabeth Renee Minor, OP
- Henry Molnar, OP
- Celene Morgan, XA
- Ronald Morris, UB
- Teddy Mosteller Jr., PH
- Marjorie Ann Nelson, OP
- Jeanne O'Bryan, TA
- Michael Payne, PH
- Jose Perez-Morales, YA
- Mary Poitier, GG
- Glenn Rhoadside, QA
- Joseph Tellado, UB
- Angel Torres, YA
- Daniel Tweed, TA
- Robert Waterman Jr., YA
- Lori Weller, JP
- Ronny Woods, Johnson Space Center
- Edgar Zapata, YA



KSC Secretarial Management Support Assistant Excellence Award

This award is granted to a KSC employee in the 303 and 318 classification series who has demonstrated exemplary performance of official duties, has a high degree of personal integrity, has established and maintained rapport with peers and superiors, and has outstanding secretarial/clerical skills. The recipient of this award is selected from the four Outstanding Secretarial/Management Support Assistant Award winners from the previous year. The winner was Beth Smith for outstanding support to Kennedy Space Center and the Fourth Floor staff.

KSC Equal Opportunity Award

Two Equal Opportunity Awards are granted each year. One to a supervisor and one to a non-supervisor.

These awards are granted for outstanding contributions to Equal Opportunity. Examples of the types of contributions for which the award may be granted include: encouraging self-development and training among minorities and women; assigning minority and women employees to organizational tasks that broaden their experience; suggesting affirmative actions which alleviate problems peculiar to minorities and women; and, assigning minorities and women to tasks that encourage full utilization of their skills.

The Supervisory Award was given to Associate Director Marvin Jones for exceptional leadership and guidance of the Disability Awareness and Action Working Group and for all of the successful accomplishments and efforts that have led to provide an accessible work place for all employees.

The Non-Supervisory Award was given to Wilbourn Farley of the Spaceport Services Directorate for providing guidance and support to the Kennedy Space Center workforce and its disability program and for making accessibility and accommodation changes that have benefited the Center's mission.

Directorate Codes

- AA Center Director
- AA-A Deputy Director
- AA-B Associate Director
- BA Workforce & Diversity Management Office
- CC Office of the Chief Counsel
- GG Chief Financial Office
- JP Cape Canaveral Spaceport Management Office
- MK Launch Integration
- OP Procurement Office
- PH Shuttle Processing Directorate
- QA Safety, Health & Independent Assessment Directorate
- TA Spaceport Services Directorate
- UB ISS/Payloads Processing Directorate
- VA ELV & Payload Carriers Programs
- XA External Relations and Business Development Directorate
- YA Spaceport Engineering & Technology Directorate

KSC Service Awards

The award is given in grateful recognition and appreciation of faithful service in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Government of the United States of America.

Those recognized for 40 years of service were Marvin Gassman, Spaceport Services Directorate; James McKnight, Shuttle Processing Directorate; and Wayne Graham, ISS/Payloads Processing Directorate.

Associate Director Marvin Jones was recognized for 45 years of service.

New Hypergol Support Building No. 2 dedicated

Kennedy Space Center workers whose offices were located inside trailers near the Hypergol Maintenance Facility are now calling a brand new building home.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held June 18 at the new Hypergol Support Building No. 2 in the Industrial Complex area.

KSC Director Roy Bridges Jr., along with Chris Fairey, director of Spaceport Services and William Pickavance Jr., vice president, deputy program manager, Florida Operations, United Space Alliance, officially opened the new facility and welcomed the workers.

"We're all privileged to be able to work in our nation's space program. It's always a thrilling day to come and work here and make a difference. This facility certainly does help to make a difference," Bridges said.

He added, "The Hypergol Maintenance Facility is a very important part of the space program. We resolved in our construction facility budget to get the workers in decent facilities. We celebrate this achievement during today's ribbon-cutting."

The new climate-controlled, 17,600-plus square foot concrete and steel facility replaces the temporary trailers at the Hypergol Maintenance Facility.

It features several shop areas, a document control station, office



Cutting the ribbon from left are Ed Tobin, NASA facility manager; William Pickavance Jr., vice president deputy program manager, Florida Operations, United Space Alliance; Wade Ivey, Ivey Construction; Roy Bridges, KSC center director; Chris Fairey, director of Spaceport Services; Wally Schroeder, vice president, Jones Edmunds & Associates Inc.; and Kenneth Williams, operations chief, Hypergol Systems, USA.

areas, a conference room and a break room.

The facility also has orbiter intercom system digital stations for test teams, computers, fiber optics, basic cable distribution systems for monitoring atmospheric conditions and training channel access, and a fire alarm system with remote sensing of test cells.

"On behalf of USA, I would like to thank all those who made this facility possible. Working conditions do reflect the type of work that's done," Pickavance said.

Approximately 85 NASA, USA

and Boeing employees will occupy the new facility in order to accomplish a variety of functions associated with off-line maintenance, configuration and testing of Orbital Maneuvering System Pods and Forward Reaction Control Systems.

They will also perform special laboratory functions as well as off-line processing of major flight hardware components and ground support equipment maintenance/operation in support of orbiter processing from landing through launch.

The Hypergol Support Building No. 2 is one of six projects that will

provide permanent modern housing in the Hypergol Maintenance Facility and Launch Complex 39 areas.

The projects have a capital value of approximately \$16 million and strongly emphasize the Center's commitment to provide safe and healthy work environments for its workers.

The new facility was designed by architect and engineers Jones Edmunds and Associates of Titusville. Ivey's Construction, Merritt Island, accomplished the construction.

Space news panel

The 2002 Florida Press Association and Florida Society of Newspaper Editors Convention offers a panel on media coverage of the space program over the years. At the podium is Bob Stover, managing editor, *Florida Today*. Panel participants are (left to right) Craig Covault, senior editor, *Aviation Week*; Howard Benedict, retired AP reporter; JoAnn Morgan, director, External Relations and Business Development, Kennedy Space Center; Marcia Dunn, AP reporter. The convention was held at the Debus Center, KSC Visitors Complex. Also speaking at the convention were Center Director Roy Bridges and NASA Associate Deputy Administrator Dr. Daniel Mulville.



20th anniversary: Get Away Special Canister

On June 27, 1982, Shuttle Endeavour launched on mission STS-4, carrying in its payload bay the first Get Away Special (GAS) canister.

Inside, experiments assembled by a dedicated student team roared into orbit, kicking off the GAS program that still enjoys success today.

Gil Moore, director of Project Starshine, was the program manager and principal investigator for the first GAS crew.

At the time, he worked for Thiokol and was an adjunct physics professor at Utah State in Logan, Utah.

At the 1976 conference of the International Astronautical Federation, Moore was present in the audience when John Yardley, associate administrator for the budding Space Shuttle program, delivered a speech outlining a new "Get Away Special" program that would allow individuals and groups to fly their experiments on the Space Shuttle.

"The program was designed to give an incentive for individuals and small companies to become involved in the space program in the hope that they would one day develop and fly larger payloads," said Moore.

But despite the fact that the Shuttle was still years away from its first flight, he saw an opportunity for his students.

Moore was no stranger to the idea of flying student experiments in space, having previously

assisted young schoolchildren in getting their experiments launched on sounding rockets from Wallops Island, Va., and Kauai, Hawaii.

Immediately, he sent a teletype to Capt. Chester Lee, director of Shuttle Utilization, offering to pay \$10,000 for GAS payload space on the first available Shuttle flight.

A team of students from Utah State, Weber State and University of California-Davis put together 10 experiments to fly in the first GAS canister, which was limited to a volume of five cubic feet and an Earth weight of 200 pounds.

Six years later, a caravan of 27 people, ranging in age from 4 years to more than 50, ferried the students to the Cape to watch as their payload blasted off toward orbit. They soon learned that the wire bringing power to the GAS canister had broken, and the experiments were not all working.

But three days later, shortly after the despondent team arrived at JSC, STS-4 astronauts Ken Mattingly and Henry Hartsfield and the team of ground controllers restored power to the canister.

With the assistance of the flight director, the team arranged to send the following thank-you message to the crew: "That's one small switch for NASA, and one giant turn-on for the GAS crew!"

Since then, hundreds of the canisters have flown on Shuttle missions. In fact, Utah State has flown more experiments than any other researcher.

"We get a lot of repeats, teams

the encounters.

Encke has been seen from Earth more than any other comet; it's an "old" body that gives off relatively little gas and dust but remains more active than scientists expect for a comet that has passed close to the sun thousands of times.

Schwassmann-Wachmann 3, on the other hand, was discovered just 70 years ago and recently split into several pieces, intriguing scientists with hopes that CONTOUR might see fresh surfaces and materials.

Additional information about CONTOUR is available on the web at <http://www.contour2002.org>.

CONTOUR ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Schwassmann-Wachmann 3, June 19, 2006.

CONTOUR will examine each comet's "heart," or nucleus, which scientists believe is a chunk of ice and rock, often just a few kilometers across and hidden from Earth-based telescopes beneath a dusty atmosphere and long tail.

The targets were selected because of their diversity and relative closeness to Earth during encounter time allowing astronomers to make observations during


Remembering Our Heritage



University students Kelly Hunt and Bruce Moore prepare an experiment for launch in the first Get Away Special (GAS) canister 20 years ago. That first GAS was launched June 27, 1982. Since then hundreds of GAS canisters have flown on the Space Shuttle allowing schools and small organizations to perform space research.

coming back again and again," said Future Payload Manager Virginia Whitehead, who has worked with GAS teams for several years. "One team even has a newsletter that they send out to supporters around their local community."

In her opinion, the best part of the GAS program is seeing the experimenters' excitement as they prepare their canisters for launch. "It doesn't matter if they're kids or adults. They're all equally enthusiastic!" she said.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

Spaceport News

Spaceport News is an official publication of the Kennedy Space Center and is published on alternate Fridays by External Relations and Business Development in the interest of KSC civil service and contractor employees. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted two weeks before publication to the Media Services Branch, XAE-1. E-mail submissions can be sent to Katharine.Hagood-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Managing editor..... Bruce Buckingham
Editor..... Kathy Hagood

Editorial support provided by InDyne Inc. Writers Group.
NASA at KSC is located on the Internet at <http://www.ksc.nasa.gov>

USGPO: 733-133/60011