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# SPACE CENTER Roundup

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JSC photo S98-20489 by Mark Sowa

## Team completes assembly of X-38 fuselage

**T**he fuselage of one of the X-38 vehicles, a spacecraft called V-201, has been constructed.

V-201 will be the first spacecraft ever built at the Johnson Space Center. The spacecraft is a full-scale prototype of the Crew Return Vehicle (CRV), which will serve as the permanently attached lifeboat or ambulance for the space station.

An integrated team of JSC engineers, Lockheed support contractors, and European Space Agency engineers from seven different countries designed the fuselage at JSC. The lead design engineers were Wayne Jermstad for the cabin, Tony Dao for the aft end, Chris Lupo for the fins, and Tammy Long for the skin panels. Karen Edelstein led the structural

verification team. Chris Madden and Ken Wong were the team leads for the design of the overall structure.

As the designs of the parts were completed, Dave Young took the lead in manufacturing and assembly. Larry Zielke oversaw the manufacturing and procurement of the structural components. Steve Peterschmidt and Dave Wade designed the assembly plans and the fixtures that hold the structure together during assembly. Dan Petersen engineered and led the aft end assembly.

As the components for the fuselage arrived, the assembly team, led by Keith Day and Mike Adkins, assembled them into a vehicle. Technicians Dave Kroen, Scott Lee, and Fred Winter,

machinist Joe Ruiz, and Quality Assurance support Shane Miller have been assembling the vehicle structure for the past 18 months. Frank Jenson and Kevin Rau have used a state-of-the-art laser tracking system to inspect, position, and align the structure during assembly.

V-201 is currently scheduled for a full CRV mission (on orbit to landing) space flight test on board the space shuttle in late 2000. The interior volume of the spacecraft is 420 cubic feet, larger than any other human spacecraft other than the orbiter, Skylab, Mir and the International Space Station.

The operational CRV will be able to carry all seven astronauts from the space station in the event of an

**The X-38 Structure Design and Manufacturing Team has completed assembly of the fuselage of a full-scale prototype of the Crew Return Vehicle for the International Space Station.**

emergency. A synopsis of the Request for Proposals for the operational CRV was released in December. A draft RFP is scheduled for release in February, with

a goal of contract award for the first part of the CRV development by October 1, 1999.

The flights of the X-38 atmospheric flight test vehicles, V-131 and V-132, are scheduled for February 5 and 26, respectively, at the Dryden Flight Research Facility in California. ■



TransHab achieves key milestone.

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Space walks highlight STS-88 mission.

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Got the squeeze... call the 33333's.

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