Space News ROUNDUP!

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New software to help track JSC computers

JSC is in the process of activating a new software tool that will help track the estimated 10,000 desktop computers on site, but the Information Systems Directorate needs the help of all employees to make it work.

Earlier this year, the Information Systems Directorate installed the Enterprise Workstation Management System, a centerwide tool for desktop computers management. This tool uses a commercial product called the Systems Management Server and connects over the network to all JSC desktop computers.

The Systems Management Server can inventory the hardware configuration of JSC computers, install new software and facilitate remote trouble shooting of computer problems. Information gathered by the Systems Management Server may be used by the Information Systems Directorate and the Information Resource Management Steering Council to plan for future computer procurements and improve computer services across JSC.

To facilitate the information gathering process, each user at JSC will be asked to update a Management Information Form that is stored in the Systems Management Server database. The form will pop up automatically on each user's computer during the initial boot sequence, and should take only a few minutes to complete. Subsequent monthly updates will be requested automatically by the Systems Management Server. The Management Information Form data also may be modified by the user any time he or she needs to change the information by clicking on the Management Information Form icon (for detailed instructions, see the Enterprise Workstation Management System home page).

This Management Information Form records information about who uses the computer, which organization or company the user works for, the NASA Equipment Management System property tag number for the computer and monitor, and the physical location of the computer (building and room number). This information is critical to the use of the Systems Management Server, and all JSC users are asked to provide this information as accurately as possible. To date, the Systems Management Server has been installed on approximately 7,000 computers on-site, however, only 70 percent of the Systems Management Server users have filled in the Management Information

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JSC Photo 97-09094 by Steve Candler

STS-85 Mission Specialist Mike Gernhardt signs an autograph for Kimberly Fransham. Fransham is the niece of Mission Specialist Janice Voss and daughter Vicky and Robert Fransham of Clear Lake.

STS-85 launch countdown to begin Monday

By Kyle Herring

Human-tended Earth atmospheric studies are the focus next week with the Aug. 7 liftoff of *Discovery* to begin the STS-85 commanded by veteran Curt Brown.

Discovery's six astronauts head to Florida Monday afternoon for the launch count that concludes with liftoff at 9:41 a.m., Houston time. The one hour, 39 minute launch window maintains the proper sun angles on the free-flying satellite that will study various aspects of Earth's atmosphere during its nine days of free flight.

Science instruments mounted on the a reusable structure in the payload bay include spectrometers and telescopes to measure infrared radiation emitted by the middle atmosphere. These emperiments are in support of NASA's Mission to Planet Earth program, which is a long-term, coordinated research effort to study the Earth.

Known by its acronym, CRISTA, which stands for Cryogenic Infrared Spectrometers and Telescopes, the instrument package will use three telescopes and four spectrometers to conduct the free-flying measurements. Deployed atop the Shuttle Pallet Satellite just seven hours after launch, the science investigations will be conducted for nine days to measure chemicals, constituents and ozone levels in the atmosphere.

Once deployed by Mission Specialist Jan Davis, the CRISTA-SPAS will fly free of *Discovery* and will be controlled remotely from the Kennedy Space Center, which will oversee commanding and observations by the satellite's instruments.

Following nine days of free flight, CRISTA-SPAS will be captured by the Shuttle's Remote Manipulator System and cradled in the payload bay for the return trip to Earth two days later.

"From a shirt-sleeve orbiting laboratory one month, to

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Crew praises teamwork during science reflight

By Karen Schmidt

As *Columbia* glided to a smooth landing at the completion of STS-94, scientists around the world were tallying up the wealth of information the crew collected during the 16-day flight.

Columbia touched down at 5:47 a.m. CDT July 17 on Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility to cap a 6.2 million-mile mission. Commander Jim Halsell eased *Columbia*'s landing gear onto the runway to end the STS-85 mission after 15 days, 16 hours and 44 minutes.

Halsell and his crew mates—Pilot Susan Still, Payload Commander Janice Voss, Mission Specialists Don Thomas and Mike Gernhardt and Payload Specialists Roger Crouch and Greg Linteris—returned to Houston July 18 with praise for the ground support teams that supported the mission.

"This is my first chance to fly on a long

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Mir 24 crew to conduct internal space walk

Russian officials have delayed the internal space walk on the Russian Mir Space Station until a newly trained crew can be launch to the orbiting outpost.

Top Russian space officials comprising the State Commission of chief designers met on July 21 and officially announced that the Mir 24 crew will perform the internal space walk into the depressurized Spektr module. Commander Anatoly Solovyev and Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov will attempt to relocate power cables from the three remaining undamaged solar arrays to the Core module batteries through a specially-crafted hatch cover.

Solovyev and Vinogradov are scheduled to be launched on Aug. 5 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakstan arriving two days later at the Russian station. They will replace the current Mir 23 cosmonaut crew of Vasily Tsibliev and Alexander Lazutkin, who have been aboard the orbiting Russian facility since Feb. 12. Following a one week handover between the two crews, Tsibliev and Lazutkin will return to Earth on Aug 14 after 185 days in space, and Solovyev, Vinogradov along with U.S. Astronaut Mike Foale will become responsible for station operations.

The State Commission also announced that the internal space walk into Spektr will occur no earlier than Aug 20. As part of their training for the internal space walk, the Mir 24 crew has done extensive activity in the Russian hydrolab facility. Solovyev is well prepared for the upcoming intravehicular activity, having done nine previous space walks and logging more than 90 hours of space walking experience.

Also as part of decisions made on July 21, the State Commission further announced that French cosmonaut-researcher Leopold Eyharts will not join the Mir 24 crew for his planned three-week research flight aboard Mir. Russian officials are exploring new options for Eyharts and said he may fly to the Russian outpost early next year with the Mir 25 crew.

Russia's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Igor Goncharov, said last week that new electrocardiograph tests on Tsibliev showed no signs of heart arrhythmia. He said further medical tests would be conducted on both Mir 23 crew members as they begin to prepare for their journey home, and he emphasized that Tsibliev can safely command the Soyuz vehicle to a normal landing.

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