**Hunton leads planning for life sciences institute**

By Jeff Carr  
NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin announced last Friday that, effective immediately, JSC Director Dr. Carolyn L. Huntoon has taken on a special assignment for the administrator to lead the development of plans for a new sciences institute for biomedical research.  

As a key part of her assignment, Huntoon will represent the agency in establishing a dialogue with potential national and international participants in the life sciences institute. She will represent the administrator in those efforts. JSC Deputy Director George Abbey will serve as acting center director.  

NASA officials previously announced plans to create science institutes to help streamline the agency's management structure and improve the quality of its scientific research. As envisioned by NASA, the institutes would be privatized arrangements with government-owned assets being managed by external entities, such as a university, an industrial organization or a consortium. "Outside involvement and participation are key to the success of the institutes," said Dr. Huntoon, as an internationally-recognized scientist, is the perfect choice. Please see HUNTOON, Page 4

**Repairs begin on Endeavour's O-ring sealant**

Technicians are preparing to begin repairs on rubber seals around the O-rings in the nozzle joints of Endeavour's reusable solid rocket motors on Launch Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center.  

The repairs to the O-rings, Temperature- Vulcanized rubber are designed to fill air pockets that have formed in the crevices leading to the O-rings in the nozzle joints. As a result of what managers believe is a change in the way engineers apply the soft rubbery sealant during the manufacture of the nozzles.  

Endeavour's launch on the fifth shuttle mission of the year was put on hold July 28 after managers were told that the primary O-rings in the nozzle joints of the RSRM's from STS-71 and STS-70 had suffered heating effects from the hot gasses that pass through the nozzle during the first two minutes of flight. The same O-rings in the nozzle joints and both the primary and secondary O-rings in the RSRM's field joints were unaffected by the hot gasses.  

In preparation for the repair work, Endeavour was returned to Launch Pad 39A at KSC on Tuesday after a week's stay in the Vehicle Assembly Build. The shuttle was hauled back to the VAB last week to protect it from Hurricane Erin, which lashed the Florida spacecoast with winds of 85 miles an hour. The storm delayed the opening date to the launch pads or other key shuttle-support facilities at the oceanside spaceport.

Technicians from Thielco, the manufacturer of the RSRM's, were due at KSC at week's end to familiarize themselves with the procedures necessary for the "excavation" of the RTV from Endeavour's booster nozzle joints and the method developed to refill the joints with the RTV substance. The actual repair work is scheduled to begin Monday.  

Preliminary schedules indicate that Endeavour still could be ready for launch on the STS-69 mission that will deploy and retrieve a pair of satellites and feature a six-hour space walk by the end of the month. Meanwhile, the solid rocket boosters earmarked for Columbia's launch on the STS-73/USML-2 mission were returned to Kennedy up the shuttle's external fuel tank. Columbia is scheduled to be moved to the launch pad in early August.

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**JSC plans open house**

By Steve Nadell  
JSC will open its gates to the general public on Aug. 26, welcoming the Houston community to a first-hand look inside facilities not usually seen. The Open House, which runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., is being held to show appreciation to the community for its ongoing support. Visitors will get the chance to hear astronauts describe their space flights and see where they train. Engineers and scientists will be on hand to demonstrate many of the special tools and projects on which they work.  

“We wanted to give a special ‘thank you’ to members of the local community for all the support they have given us,” said JSC Director Dr. Carolyn L. Huntoon. "We hope they will come out and see the exciting work that neighbors do.”  

Also on display will be space suits, moon rocks and the 100-foot vacuum chamber once used to test the Apollo spacecraft. In a series of special presentations in the auditorium, current and former astronauts will describe space flights, scientists will show dramatic photos of the Earth taken from space and astronauts from earlier missions will offer a history lesson on America’s human space flight program.  

A tram will operate around the perimeter of the site, allowing visitors to ride to various stops. Visitors will be given a brochure that will include a map of JSC with all open buildings and tram stops marked.  

The Open House concludes during the annual Ballunar Festival sponsored by Space Center Houston, from Aug. 25-27.  

This year’s Ballunar Festival will feature over 80 inflatable balloons, along with other attractions. The festival will take place at Rocket Park, with activities beginning on Friday, Aug. 25, at 6 p.m. •

**ESC marks anniversary**

The JSC Executive Safety and Health Committee marked its first anniversary last month with a report that lost workday cases have since the format changed back to since the format was changed back to standard time.

The JSC Executive Safety and Health Committee was reorganized as part of the 1994 Safety Review Board at JSC, with an ESHC charted by Dr. Larry B. Walker, commander of the upcoming STS-69 mission, realized the importance of management involvement in safety issues.

Since the formation of the ESC, chaired by JSC Acting Director Dr. George Abbey, many accomplishments have been achieved to promote safety at JSC. Foremost was line management's acceptance of the responsibility for the safety, health and general well-being of their employees, and the significant rise in the safety awareness levels of people across the enterprise. In addition, the enhanced communications which have resulted from the ESC's regularly-scheduled meetings, and the revitalization of the directorate safety committee have brought about a new level of awareness regarding safety issues.

The ESC has established and developed projects of a variety of forms out of the safety.
**NASA-FAA announce aviation design competition winners**

NASAspace agency in Washington, D.C., and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has announced the winners of the 1996-97 Aviation Design Competition.

The competition, which is held annually, is aimed at encouraging college students to design innovative concepts for aircraft and aviation systems. The competition is open to students enrolled in accredited colleges and universities in the United States.

The competition includes four categories: conceptual design, conceptual design with advanced technology, conceptual design with advanced materials, and conceptual design with advanced avionics.

The winners of the competition will be announced in September and will be awarded scholarships and internships at NASA and the FAA.

**Computer security symposium to be held next month**

Lewis Research Center along with the Information Systems Security Association, Information Systems Audit and Control Association and the National Computer Security Association are hosting a “Network System Security” seminar for computer hackers. The seminar will be held at the Cleveland Airport Marriott. The sessions will discuss various aspects of network security, including ways to protect data from unauthorized access.

**Travel Fair set for Tuesday**

The Employee Activities Association is sponsoring a Travel Fair from 4-6 PM on Tuesday at the Ginther Center. The fair will feature more than 50 travel agents including airlines, tour companies and cruise lines. A few of the travel vendors will be award- ed during the fair.

**Atlantis prepares for Mir**

(Copied from Page 1)

NASA/Atlantis Orbiter Docking System (ODS) project manager David Mork is shown in a training session for the ODS. The ODS is a new docking system being developed by NASA to enable the space shuttle and Russian Soyuz spacecraft to dock at the International Space Station (ISS). The ODS will be used to perform docking operations between the space shuttle and the ISS, as well as with other spacecraft such as the Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

**Hunters looking forward to challenge of new institute**

(Copied from Page 1)

Hunters looking forward to challenge of new institute. The JSC cafeterias are now redeeming the JSC coupons for their products.

**Snpoly Day Spaceport**

Snpoly Day Spaceport is a unique space-themed event held each year to celebrate the contributions of scientists, engineers, and educators who work at the NASA-JSC Spaceport. This year, Spoly Day Spaceport will feature a variety of activities and exhibits, including a space shuttle simulator, a moonwalk, and a hands-on exploration of space science.

**NASA/John Glenn Space Center**

NASA/John Glenn Space Center is a facility located in Columbus, Ohio, where NASA scientists and engineers perform research and development activities related to space exploration. The center is named after John H. Glenn Jr., who was a NASA astronaut and the first American to orbit the Earth.

**NASA-JSC**

NASA-JSC is a major NASA center located in Houston, Texas, that is responsible for many of NASA’s aerospace programs, including the International Space Station, the Space Shuttle, and the Mars Exploration Program.