GODDARD NEWS

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Safety – Our Number One Value

NASA's Goals, Strategies, Initiatives and Management Structure

NASA Administrator Dan Goldin recently told the Agency's senior management that one measure of organizational solidarity and singleness of purpose is the degree of understanding of Agency objectives and management expectations throughout the organization. There is a wealth of information about NASA's goals, strategies, initiatives and management structure on the web.

For example, how familiar are you with the Agency Safety Initiative? The Agency Safety Initiative (ASI) is NASA's program to become the nation's leader in the safety and occupational health of our work force and the safety of the products and services we provide.

Safety plays an integral role in NASA's quest to expand frontiers in aeronautics and space. As we move into the 21st century, we have designated safety and health as our highest priority. We will not compromise the safety and health of our people and property nor harm the environment. We are working to achieve zero mishaps in the NASA workplace, keeping in mind that every employee's safety and health, both on and off the job, is our concern.

The ASI is aimed at strengthening NASA's capabilities so that safety permeates every aspect of NASA work and we routinely incorporate safety and health principles and practices into our daily decision making processes and lives.

The NASA Safety Hierarchy:

The ASI establishes the NASA safety hierarchy -the order we will use to prioritize our safety efforts. The safety hierarchy is:

First, safety for the public. We absolutely must protect the public from harm.

Second, safety for astronauts and pilots, because they expose themselves to risk in high hazard flight regimes

Third, safety for employees, because we owe it to our employees to provide them with a safe and healthful workplace.

Fourth, safety for high value equipment, because we are stewards of the public's trust.

By focusing on the safety of NASA's mission and operations, we will improve quality and decrease cost and schedule.

Additional information about the NASA Safety Initiative can be found on the following Web page: http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codeq/safety/index.htm

Weather Satellite De-mated from Launch Vehicle

GOES-L, an advanced U.S. weather satellite that will monitor hurricanes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and other severe weather, was de-mated from its launch vehicle at Cape Canaveral Air Station this week.

The Goddard-managed Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite was de-mated from an Atlas IIA rocket on Launch Pad 36A, and then returned to Astrotech, in Titusville, Fla. While the satellite is at Astrotech, its batteries will be reconditioned, and a gaseous nitrogen purge will be performed to components on the satellite to prevent degradation.

The satellite was previously mated to the launch vehicle on May 6. It has been on the launch pad awaiting launch since that time. The launch was originally scheduled for mid-May, but was delayed to allow NASA time to review recent Titan and Delta launch failures. It also allows results of internal reviews by the rocket manufacturers and by the Air Force.

The United States operates two meteorological satellites in geostationary orbit 22,300 miles over the Equator, one over the East Coast and one over the West Coast. GOES-10, launched on April 25, 1997, is currently overlooking the West Coast out into the Pacific including Hawaii; it is located at 135 degrees West longitude. GOES-8, launched in April 1994, is overlooking the East Coast out into the Atlantic Ocean and is positioned at 75 degrees West.

GOES-L will be stored on orbit ready for operation when needed as a replacement for GOES-8 or -10.

Goddard manages the design, development and launch of the spacecraft for NOAA. NASA's Kennedy Space Center is responsible for government oversight of launch operations and countdown activities. GOES-L, built by Space Systems/Loral, a subsidiary of Loral Space and Communications Ltd., will be launched on an Atlas IIA rocket, built by Lockheed Martin.

NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service operates the GOES series of satellites. After the satellites complete on-orbit checkout, NOAA assumes responsibility for command and control, data receipt, and product generation and distribution. The GOES satellites are a critical component of the ongoing National Weather Service modernization program, aiding forecasters in providing more precise and timely forecasts.

The final satellite in the current GOES series will be launched as required to support NOAA's dual-satellite geostationary observing system.

GOES information and imagery are available on the World Wide Web at:http://www.goes.noaa.gov and http://www.nnic.noaa.gov/SOCC/SOCC_Home.html

QuikSCAT Launch Postponed a Day

The launch of NASA's Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT) spacecraft aboard an Air Force Titan II vehicle from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., has been delayed at least 24 hours to no earlier than June 19 at 10:15 p.m. EDT.

The additional time is required to allow engineers an opportunity to troubleshoot a possible telemetry data problem with an inertial measurement unit on the Titan II vehicle.

QuikSCAT will study the ocean winds using the SeaWinds instrument. This specialized microwave radar will map wind direction and speed across 90 percent of Earth's ice-free oceans and will gather a picture of the entire Earth once every two days.

Goddard's responsibility for the QuikSCAT mission included procuring the satellite under the Ind issued under the IDIQ procurement method.

You can now access the QuikSCAT press kit on-line at: http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/files/misc/qslaunchhq.pdf

Employee Viewing Scheduled for FUSE Launch

Employees can view the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) launch on NASA TV in the Building 8 auditorium on June 23. The doors will open at 10:30 a.m. for the expected launch time of 11:39 a.m. EDT from Cape Canaveral Air Station, Fla. FUSE is expected to launch at the beginning of the launch window which extends from 11:39 a.m. to 12:56 p.m.

In search of remnants from the Big Bang, FUSE astronomers hope to better understand how stars and our solar system evolved. For more information on the mission check out the FUSE home page at: http://fuse.pha.jhu.edu/

Instrument Integration Begins on New Atmospheric Spacecraft

A Goddard-managed spacecraft that will conduct global studies of a critical region in the Earth's atmosphere is taking shape at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) in Laurel, Md. The Thermosphere, Ionosphere, Mesosphere, Energetics and Dynamics (TIMED) mission is managed by the Special Projects Office at Goddard.

TIMED will study the influences of the Sun and humans on the least explored and understood region of Earth's atmosphere – the mesosphere and lower thermosphere/ionosphere. The TIMED spacecraft is scheduled to be carried into orbit onboard a Delta II rocket from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., in May 2000. The mission operations and science data centers located at JHU/APL will support data analysis for an additional two years after the conclusion of the mission.

The two-year TIMED mission will focus on the portion of Earth's atmosphere located between 40-110 miles (60 and 180 kilometers) above the surface, where the solar X-ray and ultraviolet radiation (the most variable part of the solar spectrum) is absorbed.

Previous studies of this region have been limited because it is difficult to reach. But with technological advances in remote sensing, TIMED will be able to observe this relatively unexplored frontier from space obtaining an unprecedented set of comprehensive global measurements of the MLTI region's temperature, pressure, winds, and chemical composition, along with the energy inputs and outputs.

Integration of TIMED's four-instrument payload has begun with the Global Ultraviolet Imager (GUVI), a collaborative effort between JHU/APL and The Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, Calif. The GUVI instrument will measure composition and temperature profiles of the MLTI region, as well as the high-latitude auroral energy inputs.

TIMED's three other instruments are being built by organizations from around the country and will be integrated over the course of the next few months.

The Solar Extreme Ultraviolet Experiment instrument, being built by the University of Colorado, will measure solar X-ray, ultraviolet, and far ultraviolet radiation – the primary energy source of the MLTI region.

The Sounding of the Atmosphere using Broadband Emission Radiometry instrument, being developed and built by Hampton University and Utah State University for NASA's

Langley Research Center, will measure atmospheric cooling rates, as well as pressure, temperature, and chemical constituents.

The TIMED Doppler Interferometer instrument, being constructed at the University of Michigan, will measure the region's winds and temperature profiles.

For more information about the TIMED mission (including instrument integration photographs), go to the following Web site: www.timed.jhuapl.edu

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HQ Legal Staff Visits Goddard –The Goddard Office of Chief Counsel hosted the NASA Headquarters General Counsel staff during a visit last week to the Center.

Mission Success Starts with Safety

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If you would like to offer comments or ask questions concerning the content of the Goddard News for this week please address your e-mail comments to: James.Sahli.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

If you would like to offer comments or ask questions regarding the HTML (on-line) version of Goddard News for this week please address your email comment to: Lynn.A.Jenner.1@gsfc.nasa.gov