

A NOTE FROM THE HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT INTEGRATED NETWORKS DIRECTOR

Shortly after the Space Shuttle Columbia accident, the SCP's Human Space Flight (HSF) Team refocused its activities aimed at maintaining the Integrated Networks proficiency levels and ensuring our readiness for the Space Shuttle fleet's Return To Flight (RTF). The Team has participated in numerous proficiency simulations involving the Flight Dynamics Facility (FDF), White Sands Complex (WSC), and Network Integration Center (NIC). These simulations are being scheduled on a monthly basis.

In addition to our monthly simulations, we have participated with JSC in simulating the activation of the Emergency Mission Control Center (EMCC), which moves control of a Space Shuttle mission from the Johnson Space Center (JSC) Mission Control Center (MCC) to Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in the event of a catastrophic event. The Team has been actively involved in planning for a Launch Countdown Test simulation during the April/May time frame. We are also planning tests and proficiency exercises utilizing the Space Shuttle Portable Spacecraft Simulator (PSS) in conjunction with the Shuttle Training Aircraft (STA). These exercises will provide realistic Launch and Landing scenarios for ground station personnel. Anomalies induced at the various sites will test operations support personnel knowledge, and provide indicators of where additional training is needed.

Additional work for RTF includes development of a new requirement to support Space Shuttle External Tank Television (ETTV). This new requirement was supported as a PAO event during the STS-112 mission. For STS-114, the Ground Network (GN) stations at Merritt Island (MILA), Ponce de Leon (PDL), and Wallops Flight Facility (WFF), and the Jonathan Dickinson Missile Tracking Annex (JDMTA) station (near West Palm Beach, FL) will receive and record the ET TV link in real-time. MILA, WFF, and JDMTA will relay this TV link to KSC in real time for distribution.

The HSF Team continues to provide support to the International Space Station (ISS) as required. We successfully supported the Soyuz launch in April. A new relief crew, consisting of one Astronaut and one Cosmonaut, was lifted to the station to replace the crew currently residing on the ISS.

We are heavily involved in the planning and preparation for compatibility testing for the European Space Agency (ESA) Autonomous Transfer Vehicle (ATV), and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) H-IIA Transfer Vehicle (HTV). These two vehicles will provide unmanned provisions support to the ISS, including re-boost capability, and will be supported via the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS).

The HSF Team is dedicated to maintaining the highest level of proficiency and will be ready to support when STS-114 lifts off in March 2005.

By Jim Bangerter

SCP Inter-Center Coordination Activities

To promote cooperation and coordination among users and providers of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) tracking and data acquisition assets, a Customer Commitment Working Group (CCWG) was formed. The Space Communications Program (SCP) Deputy Program Manager for Customer Commitment/Code 451, represents the SCP at the CCWG in defining support for missions, projects, and programs requesting utilization of NASA's Space Communications and Data Systems (SCDS) resources.

The most recent CCWG meeting was convened in February 2004 at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center, CA. Significant topics discussed and/or defined included:

- Review and Status of SCDS Field Centers and Primary Contractors;
- Defining Interfaces Between SCDS Field Centers and Service Providers;

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