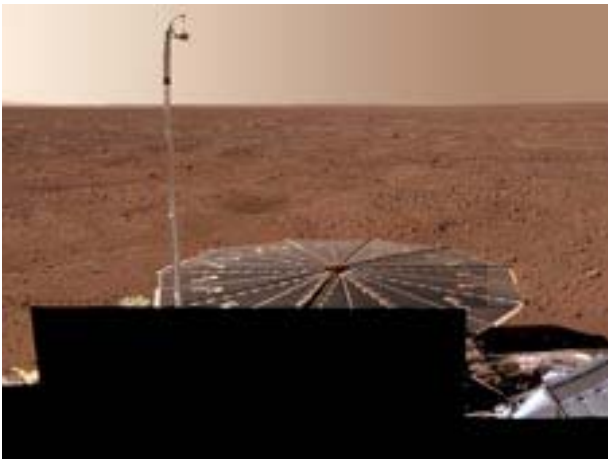


NASA Weekly Update

Week of July 28 – August 4, 2008

Aug 1: Take an Interactive Journey through NASA's First Fifty Years of Exploration: Last week marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the space act that created NASA. To commemorate NASA's beginning, the agency has released an immersive multimedia experience that takes visitors on an interactive tour of its first five decades of exploration. Combining current and historic video with state-of-the-art computer animation, the virtual exhibit takes a World's Fair approach to NASA history, featuring pavilions that host each decade of the agency's challenges and achievements. To begin the tour of NASA's first 50 years, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/50years>.

July 31: NASA Spacecraft Confirms Martian Water, Mission Extended: Laboratory tests aboard NASA's



Partial view of a full-circle panorama shows NASA's Mars Phoenix Lander and the polygonal patterning of the ground at the landing area

Phoenix Mars Lander have identified water in a soil sample. The lander's robotic arm delivered the sample Wednesday to an instrument that identifies vapors produced by the heating of samples. With enticing

results so far and the spacecraft in good shape, NASA also announced operational funding for the mission will extend through Sept. 30. The original prime mission of three months ends in late August. The mission extension adds five weeks to the 90 days of the prime mission. For more about Phoenix, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix>.

July 31: NASA Tests Moon Imaging Spacecraft at Goddard: NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, also known as LRO, has completed the first round of environmental testing at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. These tests ensure the spacecraft is prepared for its mission to collect the highest resolution images and most comprehensive geological data set ever returned from the moon. The objective of the mission is to map the lunar surface in preparation for human missions to the moon, which are planned to occur by 2020. For more information about LRO, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/lro>. For more information about NASA's exploration plans, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/exploration>.

July 31: Clean Energy, Cleaner Environment: NASA drives innovation, creating real benefits for the modest investment of less than six-tenths of one percent of the federal budget. Many of NASA's technical contributions have practical yet profound applications here on Earth. For example, NASA has used and improved fuel cells since the 1960s to provide power aboard spacecraft. Because of what we've learned, fuel cells now are powering cars, trucks, laptops and cell phones. NASA continues to simplify the design of fuel cells to make them lighter, more reliable and less costly to manufacture.

July 31: NASA Announces Aeronautics Scholarship Recipients: Twenty-five graduate and undergraduate students have been selected as the first recipients of NASA's Aeronautics Scholarship. The recipients were selected from nearly 400 applications for the school year that begins in fall 2008. The new program is designed to aid students in fields of study with applications promising to aeronautics. For a list of

the scholarship winners, visit: http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov/2008_fall_scholarship_recipients.htm. For information about aeronautics research at NASA, visit: <http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov>.

July 30: NASA Confirms Liquid Lake on Saturn

Moon: NASA scientists have concluded that at least one of the large lakes observed on Saturn's moon Titan contains liquid hydrocarbons, and have positively identified the presence of ethane. This makes Titan the only body in our solar system beyond Earth known to have liquid on its surface. For information on Cassini, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/cassini>.

July 30: NASA Lunar Science Institute Names First International Partner

NASA's Lunar Science Institute at Moffett Field, Calif., has announced its first international affiliate partner for conducting lunar science activities. Canada's University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, will represent the Canadian lunar science community as part of the newly established Canadian Network for Lunar Science and Exploration. For info about the NASA Lunar Science Institute, visit: <http://lunarscience.arc.nasa.gov/>. For information about the University of Western Ontario, visit: <http://www.uwo.ca>.

July 30: Ocean Surface Topography Mission/Jason 2 Begins Mapping Oceans

Less than a month after launch, the NASA-French space agency Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM)/Jason 2 oceanography satellite has produced its first complete maps of global ocean surface topography, surface wave height and wind speed. The new data will help scientists monitor changes in global sea level and the distribution of heat in the ocean. This information is used to monitor climate change and ocean circulation, and to enable more accurate weather, ocean and climate forecasts. For more information about OSTM/Jason 2, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ostm>.

July 29: NASA Hosts International Meeting for Lunar Science Discussions

NASA hosted a meeting of space agencies from nine countries last week to discuss the next steps in the ongoing scientific exploration of the moon. The meeting laid the groundwork for a new generation of lunar science. Discussions, led by NASA Headquarters officials, were held at NASA's Lunar Science Institute, located at the Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif.

July 29: NASA Awards contracts for Concepts of Lunar Surface Systems

NASA's Constellation Program has selected 11 companies and one university to independently develop concepts that contribute to how astronauts will live and work on the moon. For more information about the Constellation Program, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/constellation>.

July 28: Aviation Innovators Compete for NASA Technology Prizes

The 2008 General Aviation Technology Challenge will be held Aug. 4-10 at the Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa, Calif. Competitors will demonstrate innovations resulting in aircraft that are safer, less expensive and easier to operate, while having fewer negative impacts on the environment and communities surrounding airports. For more information on the Centennial Challenges, visit: <http://centennialchallenges.nasa.gov/>. For information about NASA's Innovative Partnerships Program, visit: www.ipp.nasa.gov.



NASA Goddard has More than a Dozen Exciting Missions in Next Year

http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/topstory/2008/dozen_missions.html

Have you always wanted to see a rocket launch but don't have the time to take a trip to Florida's Space Coast? Then take the short three-hour drive to Virginia's Eastern Shore where three space missions are planned from Goddard's Wallops Flight Facility: TacSat-3, the Hypersonic Boundary Layer Transition (HyBoLT), and the Max Launch Abort System.

Viewing Rocket Launches at Wallops Flight Facility

http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/events/viewing_launches.html

Rocket launches from the Wallops Flight Facility are now available live via the web. Coverage begins approximately 30-minutes before the scheduled launch.

Aug 21: HyBoLT launch from Wallops Flight Facility.

Oct 5: Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) launch from Reagan Test Site, Kwajalein Atoll.

Oct 8: Space Shuttle Atlantis launch from Kennedy Space Center on the STS-125 mission for the fifth and final servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope.

Oct TBD: TacSat-3 launch from Wallops Flight Facility.

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Please print and Fax to (202) 358-4340
or e-mail Lisa.Gibson@nasa.gov



There are only 265 days until the first Ares I test flight, Ares I-X