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Sept. 16, 2009

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MEDIA ADVISORY : M09-178

NASA Sets Briefings for November Space Shuttle Mission

HOUSTON -- NASA will preview the next space shuttle mission during a series of news briefings on Friday, Oct. 16, at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. NASA Television and the agency's Web site will broadcast the briefings live. Reporters may ask questions from participating NASA locations.

Shuttle Atlantis' 11-day mission, designated STS-129, is targeted to launch Nov. 12. The flight will include three spacewalks and the installation of two platforms to the International Space Station's truss, or backbone. The platforms will hold spare hardware to sustain station operations after the shuttle is retired. Atlantis also will return NASA astronaut Nicole Stott after spending more than two months aboard the orbiting laboratory. This is slated to be the final time a

station crew member will be returned home on a space shuttle flight.

Charlie Hobaugh will command Atlantis. He will be joined by Pilot Barry Wilmore and Mission Specialists Leland Melvin, Randy Bresnik, Michael Foreman and Robert Satcher. Wilmore, Bresnik and Satcher will be making their first trips to space.

Schedule of briefings (all times CDT):

8 a.m. -- Program Overview Briefing

9:30 a.m. -- STS-129 Mission Overview Briefing

11 a.m. -- NASA TV Video File

11:30 a.m. -- STS-129 Spacewalk Briefing

1 p.m. -- STS-129 Crew News Conference

Also on Oct. 16, Atlantis' six astronauts will be available for interviews at Johnson. Reporters must contact Gayle Frere at 281-483-8645 by Oct. 13 to reserve an interview opportunity.

U.S. reporters planning to attend the briefings in Houston must contact the Johnson newsroom at 281-483-5111 by 5 p.m. CDT on Oct. 13 for credentials. Journalists representing foreign media, regardless of citizenship, must contact the Johnson newsroom by 5 p.m. on Oct. 2.

For NASA TV streaming video, schedules and downlink information, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>

For the latest information about the STS-129 mission and its crew, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>

For the latest information on the space station, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/station>

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