KENNEDY SPACE CENTER’S
SPACEPORT MAGAZINE
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Front Cover: NASA’s OSIRIS-REx spacecraft begins to rotate on a spin table during a weight and center of gravity test inside the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The spacecraft is being prepared for its upcoming launch, targeted for Sept. 8 aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

Back Cover: “Views of Our Planet” Forever stamps featuring iconic images of the planets in our solar system, including the well-known “Blue Marble” photo of Earth are now available at a post office near you. Also, new “ Pluto Explored” Forever stamps commemorating the July 2015 flyby of Pluto by NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft are also being issued for online purchase.

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NASA’S LAUNCH SCHEDULE

Date: June 18, 5:10 a.m. EDT
Mission: Undocking and Landing of Expedition 47 Crew
Description: Undocking of the Soyuz TMA-18M spacecraft from the Russian module and landing in Kazakhstan of the Expedition 47 crew.
http://go.nasa.gov/nPDqDr

Date: June 24, 2:42 a.m. EDT
Mission: Launch of Expedition 48 Crew
Description: Launch of the Expedition 48 crew on the Soyuz MS-01 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to the International Space Station.

Date: July 16, 1:32 a.m. EDT
Mission: SpaceX CRS-9 Launch
Description: An uncrewed SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, carrying crew supplies and station hardware, will lift off on a Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Date: Sept. 8
Mission: OSIRIS-REx
Description: The mission will study Bennu, a near-Earth asteroid that is about one-third of a mile across. OSIRIS-REx will bring a small sample back to Earth for study. As planned, the spacecraft will reach its asteroid target in 2018 and return a sample to Earth in 2023.

Date: Oct. 14
Mission: Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series (GOES-R)
Description: The advanced spacecraft and instrument technology used on the GOES-R series will result in more timely and accurate forecasts and warnings.

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www.nasa.gov

ALI SHAYKHIAN

I am a customer relationship manager in the IT Technical Integration Office, supporting the Engineering Directorate. In my role, I have the opportunity to review customers’ IT needs, requirements, issues or challenges, then offer ideas and insights to achieve the best possible solutions. I started my career as a NASA contractor, and finally joined NASA in April 2000. In 2003, I was elected as a National Administrator Fellowship Program (NAFP) Fellow. My fellowship involved conducting STEM-related research and helping minority students in science and technology at Bethune-Cookman University. In addition to my regular responsibilities, I am an active member of the KSC Speakers Bureau. Through the bureau, I am able to bring the space program into classrooms. I have witnessed many K-12 students’ excitement and enthusiasm firsthand, and it is constant encouragement to me and is why speaking to students is a priority in my life. I often receive handwritten notes from students after my visit. Here are a few excerpts: “Dear Dr. Ali, thanks for letting every one shoot rockets. I can’t wait for you to come back again. Sincerely, Evan.” “Thank you Dr. Ali for the fun rocket experiment. I liked when we built the rocket and I think it was fun and awesome. Love, Monica.” I have received hundreds of notes like this that reflect the importance of how NASA impacts students’ lives in small ways that can grow into life-changing moments. I encourage all of us to reach out to students and ignite that spark in the next scientist, engineer or astronaut. I am delighted to share what I do with the community. Working for NASA has been the most enjoyable experience in my professional life.

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration

SPACEx Magazine