



GO TO THE [PREVIOUS](#) SPACE SHUTTLE STATUS REPORT

GO TO THE [NEXT](#) SPACE SHUTTLE STATUS REPORT

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER [SPACE SHUTTLE](#) STATUS REPORT
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1996 (12:06 PM EST)

LAUNCH MINUS 2 DAYS

KSC Public Affairs Contact: [Bruce Buckingham](#) (fax 407-867-2692)
E-mail: Bruce.Buckingham-1@kmail.ksc.nasa.gov

MISSION: [STS-76](#) -- 3rd MIR DOCKING & SPACEHAB

VEHICLE: [Atlantis/OV-104](#)

LOCATION: [Pad 39B](#)

LAUNCH DATE/TIME: March 21 at about 3:35 a.m. EST

LAUNCH WINDOW: 10 minutes

MISSION DURATION: 9 days, 4 hours, 29 minutes

MIR DOCKING: March 22 at about 10:36 p.m.

BEGIN SIX HOUR SPACEWALK: March 26 at about 2:10 a.m.

MIR UNDOCKING: March 27 at about 9:09 p.m.

TARGET [KSC LANDING](#) DATE/TIME: March 30 at about 8:04 a.m. EST

CREW SIZE: 6 up -- 5 down

ORBITAL ALTITUDE and INCLINATION: 184 statute miles/51.6 degrees

NOTE: The [countdown](#) for launch of Atlantis continues today for liftoff on Thursday, March 21. The 10-minute window opens at about 3:35 a.m. The exact window will be announced about 90 minutes prior to launch following final computation of the location of the Mir space station.

Work at [Pad B](#) was delayed about 5 hours last night as thunderstorms passed through KSC. Work will be back on schedule by early this afternoon without impact to Thursday's launch attempt.

Following the storms, Pad 39B was cleared to load the onboard cryogenic tanks with [liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen reactants](#). Reactant loading was completed at about 8 a.m. The reactants provide electricity for the [orbiter](#) and crew while in space and drinking water as a by-product for the 9-day mission. Today, the orbiter's mid-body umbilical unit will be demated and retracted into the [fixed service structure](#). Final vehicle and facility close-outs will also resume.

On Wednesday, preparations will be made to retract the [rotating service structure](#) to launch position at about 9 a.m. Loading of the external tank with cryogenic propellants is scheduled to begin at about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday.

Air Force weather forecasters are currently indicating an 80 percent probability of weather prohibiting launch on Thursday. The primary concern is for cross-winds violating RTLS constraints at the [Shuttle Landing Facility](#).

During Thursday's 10-minute launch window, the winds at Pad B are expected to be from the west-northwest at 18-29 knots; temperature 43 degrees F; visibility 7 miles; humidity 60 percent; and clouds scattered to broken at 2,500 feet. The 24-hour-delay forecast is better with only a 20 percent chance of violation.

[CREW](#) FOR MISSION STS-76

Commander (CDR):	Kevin Chilton
Pilot (PLT):	Richard Searfoss
Mission Specialist (MS1):	Ronald Sega
Mission Specialist (MS2):	Rich Clifford
Mission Specialist (MS3):	Linda Godwin
Mission Specialist (MS4):	Shannon Lucid

SUMMARY OF STS-76 LAUNCH DAY CREW ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 20

4:30 p.m. Wake up
5:00 p.m. Breakfast
* 10:40 p.m. Lunch and crew photo
11:10 p.m. Weather briefing (CDR, PLT, MS2)
11:10 p.m. Don launch and entry suits (MS1, MS3, MS4)
11:20 p.m. Don launch and entry suits (CDR, PLT, MS2)
* 11:35 p.m. Crew suiting photo
* 11:50 p.m. Depart for launch pad 39B

Thursday, March 21

* 12:20 a.m. Arrive at [white room](#) and begin ingress
* 1:35 a.m. Close crew hatch
* 3:35 a.m. [Launch](#)

* Televised events (times may vary slightly)
All times Eastern

GO TO THE [STATUS REPORTS](#) HOME PAGE