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## NASA Plans to Launch "AMS-02" in February 2011

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**Reporter:** From examiner.com

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Professor Samuel Ting, who's the Principal Investigator for the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer-2 (AMS-02) experiment, is waiting and ready for the launch of the mass spectrometer.

He reports the experiment is already accruing data as it awaits its February 2011 launch date. Scheduled to fly aboard the final flight of the space shuttle Endeavour, STS-134, AMS-02 will search through cosmic rays for exotic particles, antimatter and dark matter. The experiment will be mounted to the outside of the International Space Station (ISS) and will require no spacewalks to attach.

While Ting has certain things that he hopes to discover, the most exciting questions – are those that the scientist doesn't even know to ask yet. Whenever an experiment of this nature is conducted, scientists almost invariably find more questions that they didn't even know to ask.

The particles that the 7.5 ton experiment is currently seeing have had some of their qualities removed by the abrasive nature of Earth's atmosphere. This problem will be solved after Feb. 26 when the AMS-02 is delivered to its new home on the space station's S3 truss assembly. From its high vantage point it is hoped that the experiment will open new windows into particle physics and cause a revolution in humanity's understanding of the universe.

Ting hopes that AMS-02 will provide data that proves the existence of parallel universes that are composed of anti-matter. It is also hoped that the experiment will also discover particles that contain magnetic and electric particles that are exactly the opposite of ordinary particles. These discoveries could prove verify theories and answer basic questions regarding how the universe formed.

Up until AMS-02, mankind's understanding of cosmic rays has been limited to measuring light gathered in telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). This experiment will be the first

time that charged particles can be studied in the cold vacuum of space – away from the distorting influence of Earth's turbulent atmosphere.

The AMS-02 P.I. is also hoping to find out what dark matter is made of. This material is believed to be the “glue” that holds the universe together.

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