

## Endeavour's Final Payload Headed To Pad



NASA retracted a giant service structure at Kennedy Space Center's launch pad 39A today, setting the stage of the delivery tonight of the prime payload for shuttle Endeavour's 25th and final flight.

The \$1.5 billion Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer will arrive in a payload canister that will be

hoisted with a crane into the Payload Changeout Room at the launch pad. The 14,800-pound particle physics experiment will be grappled with a giant ground handling mechanism on Tuesday and then installed in Endeavour's cargo bay on Friday.

You can learn more about the cosmic ray detector [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Call To Stations for the payload move is scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight.

The payload delivery will follow the completion over the weekend of a critical propellant-loading operation. Toxic rocket propellants were loaded into onboard tanks that feed Endeavour's twin maneuvering engines as well as the ship's 44 nose-and-tail steering jets. The shuttle's three Auxiliary Power Units also were fueled for flight.

Endeavour and six astronauts remain scheduled for launch at 7:48 p.m. April 19. Four spacewalks are planned during a 14-day mission that is scheduled to conclude with a 1:27 p.m. May 3 landing at KSC's three-mile shuttle runway.

Posted by Todd Halvorson at 11:28 AM 0 Comments