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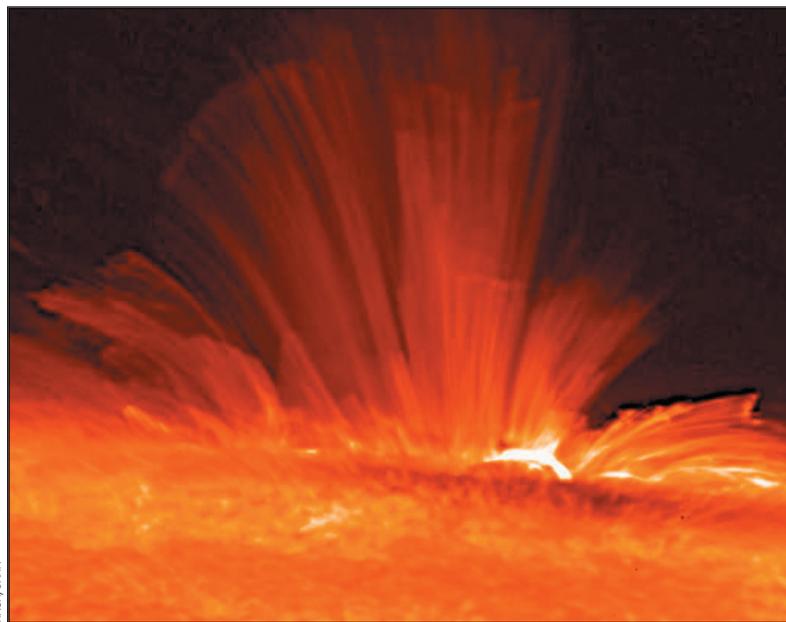
March 29, 2007

Hinode's images reveal the sun's explosive energy

By Sherrie Super

NASA has released never-before-seen images that show the sun's magnetic field is much more turbulent and dynamic than previously known. The international spacecraft Hinode, formerly known as Solar B, captured the images. Marshall manages the development of the mission's scientific instrumentation, which was provided by NASA, industry and other federal agencies.

Hinode, Japanese for "sunrise," was launched Sept. 23, 2006, to study the sun's magnetic field and how its explosive energy propagates through the different layers of the solar atmosphere. The spacecraft's uninterrupted high-resolution



Captured by Hinode's Solar Optical Telescope on Nov. 20, 2006, this image reveals the structure of the solar magnetic field rising vertically from a sunspot.

observations of the sun will have an impact on solar physics comparable to the Hubble Space Telescope's impact on astronomy.

"For the first time, we are now able to make out tiny granules of hot gas that rise and fall in the sun's magnetized atmosphere," said Dick Fisher, director of NASA's Heliophysics Division, Science Mission Directorate in Washington. "These images will open a new era of study on some of the sun's processes that affect Earth, astronauts, orbiting satellites and the solar system."

Hinode's three primary instruments, the Solar Optical Telescope, the X-ray Telescope and the Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging

See Hinode on page 7

Marshall successfully completes triennial audit conducted by National Quality Assurance, USA

By Shelley Miller

The Marshall Center has successfully completed a triennial audit conducted by National Quality Assurance, USA, an industry-recognized registrar for quality management and environmental system standards.

National Quality Assurance has recommended reissuing Marshall's certificate of registration to ISO 9001:2000 for the

center's Quality Management System. Upon resolution of minor issues, the recommendation is expected in May for registration to AS9100 certification standards for the center's Aerospace Quality Management System.

The audit report states some minor issues and opportunities for improvement. Issues under review are the need for greater consistency in the center's records for Safety, Health and Environmental training, AS9100 auditing, and non-flight design activities. The report also states the need for improvements in managing to closure mechanical materials properties testing work orders.

Associate Director Robin Henderson, Marshall's ISO 9000

See Audit on page 6

Mike Rudolphi, Marshall's engineering director, reflects on inspiring NASA career

By Lori Meggs

Nearly 20 years ago, the roadside sign at the Huntsville Holiday Inn announced, "NASA Job Fair Today." It caught the eye of a



David Higginbotham/MSFC

Mike Rudolphi, director of Marshall's Engineering Directorate.

Tennessee Valley Authority engineer and the rest, as they say, is history.

Mike Rudolphi never in a million years thought that chance encounter would lead to the storybook career he's had with NASA, but he's surely glad he stopped by that job fair that day in 1988 to check it out.

"Rudi," as many came to know him, has spent the last 18 years building a distinguished NASA career. But you won't

hear him boasting about

his own accomplishments. He prefers to talk about the team he's developed as director of Marshall's Engineering Directorate.

"Everybody's got to be really proud of our team," says Rudolphi. "We are designing the newest way to get to space — the Ares I that will launch our astronauts into Earth orbit. It's an aggressive and ambitious program, and we met all of our milestones for the first year of work on these new projects, including testing aerodynamic

designs for the vehicle in our wind tunnels. It just knocks your socks off when you think about what we've done. Our team is unbelievable."

Rudolphi says he continues to be inspired — by the recovery team of everyday citizens, firefighters and law enforcement personnel who had no connection to NASA, but gave their overwhelming and heartfelt support every day to help collect debris in Texas after the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart on re-entry in 2003. By the Return to Flight work by Marshall engineers who had a monumental task of redesigning the external tank, and helped get the shuttle flying again. And by the rideout crew and survivors of Hurricane Katrina at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, who were living in tough conditions but came to work to build the external tanks. "It's that kind of pride that keeps us going as an organization," he added. "All of these folks have a stake in our program."

One thing that makes Rudolphi proud is knowing he's helped establish partnerships among programs and projects across the center. "We all exist for the mission, and working together as partners is the only way to get it done," he says.

He also takes pride in his "Six Pretty Good Ideas" — a list of guidelines he believes are essential to success, such as being safe, making yourself better and leaving something better than you found it.

Now Rudolphi thinks it's a pretty good idea to figure out what he wants to do with the rest of his life. The man who's been at the helm of the solid rocket boosters, reusable solid rocket motors, the entire Shuttle Propulsion Office and the Engineering Directorate is officially retiring from NASA this month.

"I leave here full of confidence that our team is as powerful and strong as ever," he added.

Rudolphi says he's most proud of seeing the people he has mentored along the way now running exciting new programs for NASA.

"That's an absolute high," he says. "I just hope I have helped as many people as have helped me."

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Thank you

I would like to say thank you to all my friends here at Marshall who have supported me during the loss of my father, Clarence Key. The outpouring of kind words, prayers, flowers, notes and memorials has been amazing. I am truly thankful to be surrounded by such a caring group of people. Thank you all so much for helping me through.

— Christy Gattis

Obituary

James B. Bramlet, 85, of Harlingen, Texas, died Oct. 2, 2006. He retired from Marshall in 1974 as a project manager of the Saturn V Instrument Unit. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Bramlet.

The face of mission success is: Abbie Johnson, affirmative employment manager and Federal Women's Program manager in the Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity

According to Abbie Johnson, respect for one another at the Marshall Center is critical in carrying out the center's mission. Johnson, affirmative employment manager and Federal Women's Program manager in the Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity, helps Marshall reach this goal. She serves as a Women's Program manager, which involves coordinating activities such as Women's History Month.

What is your education background?

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in education with an endorsement in multicultural education from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., and an associate's degree in paralegal technology from Calhoun Community College in Huntsville.

How long have you been at the Marshall Center?

I have worked at Marshall for 25 years.

What are the key responsibilities of your job?

I serve as principal staff specialist for the Marshall Center, tasked with implementing the center's Affirmative Action Plan and NASA policies and directives pertaining to the overall Equal Opportunity Program. I also serve as Federal Women's Program manager, which involves coordinating activities including Women's Equality Day in August, Women's History Month in March and Take Our Children to Work Day, which will take place later this year.

What services does your job provide in support of the center's mission?

The Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity assists the Marshall

Center in sustaining a workplace environment that promotes respect, and values employees with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, talents and expertise. We provide support to the various programs and projects across the center by helping to maintain an environment in which employees are able to do their jobs, free of discrimination or harassment.

What do you hope to accomplish in your role this year?

As a member of the Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity, I hope to play a vital role in supporting the center's effort to retain and increase our workforce of diverse and highly skilled employees. The office remains committed to workforce diversity and to a proactive stance in the prevention of discrimination at the center.

What is the biggest challenge you face?

The biggest challenge our office faces is achieving success in our joint recruitment effort with the Office of Human Capital and the Academic Affairs Office. Our goal is to hire and maintain diverse employees. Another challenge

is to continue to develop and implement strategies to create the most diverse applicant pool possible for future job opportunities at Marshall. My personal challenge is to do the best job that I can to implement these strategies.

On the personal side, how do you like to spend your leisure time?

I like to spend quality time with family and friends. I love houseplants and have an interest in gardening, sewing and reading.

Jessica Wallace, an ASRI employee and Marshall Star editor in the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications, contributed to this article.



David Higginbotham/MSFC

Abbie Johnson

NASA astronaut Catherine Coleman to address Team Redstone at Women's History Month program March 30

The Marshall Center is hosting this year's Team Redstone celebration of Women's History Month, featuring NASA astronaut Catherine "Cady" Coleman. She will be the keynote speaker for the program

"Generations of Women Moving History Forward" at 10 a.m., March 30, at Morris Auditorium in Bldg. 4200.

Coleman, a mission specialist on space shuttle missions STS-73 in October 1995 and

STS-93 in July 1999, will discuss the role of women in the history of space exploration.

The winners of the Women's History Month essay and display contest will also be announced.

Marshall Association encourages employees to help plan for NASA's future

By Jessica Wallace

Approximately once a month, all Marshall employees are invited to lunch with the Marshall Association. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate, but being a member has its privileges: from planning the future course of the association to carrying out the center's mission goals.

The Marshall Association — a self-governing organization within the center — sponsors activities such as an annual college scholarship competition and a guest speakers program.

"There are many good reasons to be a member of the Marshall Association," said Raymond "Corky" Clinton, president of the association who serves as deputy for program assurance in the Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate. "We encourage a team spirit, knowing our capabilities and our customers' needs, and ultimately making Marshall a more effective partner in our community and our nation's space program."

The association's lunch meetings feature speakers who address topics of interest to the Marshall community. The discussions foster the interchange of ideas and building of relationships, and promote a broad understanding of the trends that could influence the direction of NASA. Last year, NASA Associate Administrator Rex Geveden, Marshall's deputy center director from 2003 to 2004, joined team members to discuss "Why We Explore." This year's speakers will include Marshall's Shuttle Propulsion Office Manager Robert Lightfoot and the principal investigator of the Gravity Probe-B experiment, Dr. Francis Everitt.

"These lunches offer a fun and relaxed atmosphere to talk with friends, co-workers and center leaders, and to learn about subjects that affect Marshall," said Freida Lowery, the association's vice president for programs, who serves as business integration manager in the Business Planning & Integration Office in the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications. "This year, we've already heard two fascinating talks. The first was a super explanation of the lunar program from Tony Lavoie, manager of Marshall's Lunar Precursor Robotics Program. Everyone left that meeting excited about our future exploration of the moon. The second topic was the Bridge Street development in Cumming's Research Park, which will include

retail, hotel and movie theater spaces. It was an interesting presentation on what promises to be a unique addition to Huntsville."

As part of its mission, the Marshall Association awards scholarships to college-bound children of association members. The organization selects best-qualified candidates based on high grade-point averages, extracurricular activities, honors awards and ACT/SAT scores. Typically, two student scholarships are awarded annually, one for studies in sciences and/or engineering, and one for studies in a non-technical field.

"Membership dues are the primary source of support for the scholarship program, so we need the participation of the Marshall community to continue our support of education," said Lowery.

Every year, the association elects a board of four officers: president, vice president for programs, vice president for communications and treasurer. The board sets goals for the current year, conducts long-range planning and serves as a trustee for the association's assets and dues. All members have an equal say on decisions affecting the organization, and vote on major issues at the meetings.

Annual membership dues are \$25 and lunches are approximately \$11 per person for each event. For questions or suggestions, contact the 2007 Marshall Association officers: Clinton at 544-2682; Lowery at 544-2507; Randy Baggett, vice president for communications, at 544-4101; or Beth Shelton, treasurer, at 544-9212.

For more information, go to http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/er/marshall_association.html.

The writer, an ASRI employee and Marshall Star editor, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.



Doug Stoffer/MSFC

The 2007 Marshall Association officers are, from left, Randy Baggett, vice president for communications; Beth Shelton, treasurer; Corky Clinton, president; and Freida Lowery, vice president for programs.

Marshall engineers get a leg up on lunar module design

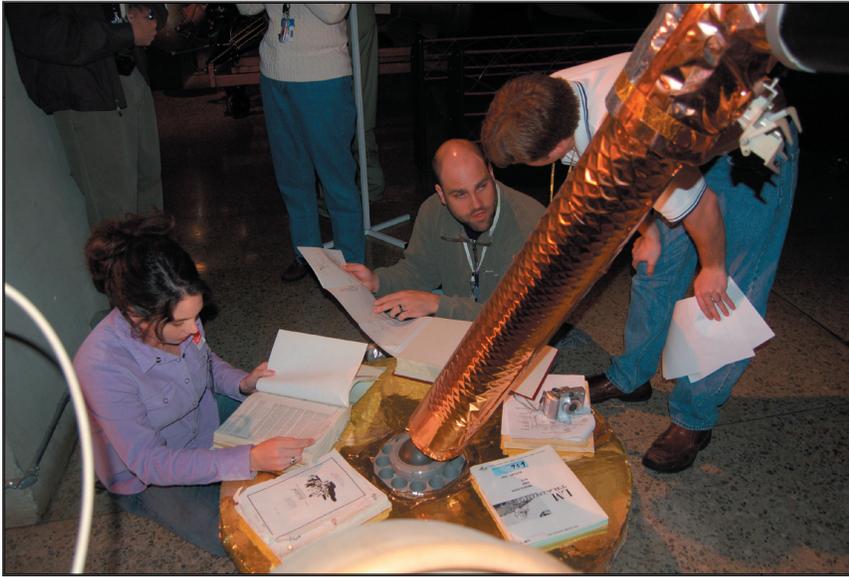


Photo courtesy of Tia Ferguson

Members of the Marshall Center's Engineering Directorate, including, from left, engineers Christy Gattis, Jason Waggoner and Jared Dervan, visited the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on March 19 to study historic NASA lunar lander concepts. A 10-person team, led by Larry Kos, descent module study lead for the Advanced Concepts Branch, was at the rocket center to investigate lander and leg deployment mechanisms of the Apollo-era lunar excursion module. The team is part of a NASA-wide effort to develop concepts for the Constellation program's planned lunar lander, which in future decades will carry human explorers to and from the surface of the moon. The study, slated to continue through June, is led by the Lunar Lander Project Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. NASA will begin the design phase for the lunar lander this fall, based on input from all the various center study partners. The Marshall Center has key responsibility for the design and development of the lander's descent stage.

Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue is 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

Miscellaneous

Queen brass headboard, \$65, twin oak headboard, \$25. 883-6496
Sony Vega Trinitron 36" flat screen color TV w/PIP silver, \$600. 256-772-6569
HP-515n computer, 2.3GHz Intel-Celeron, 256 MB RAM, 80GB/40GB hard drives, CD/RW, DVD/ROM, 17" monitor, \$150. 325-1492
New Belsoie designer gown, latte, size 12, spring '07 line, prom or evening appropriate, \$150. 682-6827
Whirlpool dryer, white, 3 cycles, \$75. 658-5678
Silver bullion, 100 oz. bar, \$1,300; HPL Jet III, two non-working printers for parts/repair, \$50. 227-5671
Executive style desk, 82", wood-grain Formica top, five locking drawers, including file drawer. 837-6776
Mahogany bedroom set: full-size bed, nightstand, dresser, mirror, chest-of-drawers, Stearns & Foster mattress/boxsprings, \$750. 683-1620
Crate DA125C amplifier, digital effects, effects loop w/documentation, no foot switch. 429-8534
Used piano, \$250, free delivery. 755-0050

Xbox 360, in box, \$300; 1-year subscription to Gamez-n-Flix, \$175. 837-1006
PowerMac 7500/100, extended keyboard, 17" monitor, Mac OS 9.1, loaded w/software, \$150. 489-4483
GE drop-in electric range, 30", white, coil burners, barely used, \$150. 603-1930
Two plots in Huntsville Memory Gardens, \$2,200. 256-881-4067
Living/dining room furniture, 2 recliners, twin trundle bed, office chair, file cabinet, propane grill. 881-0278
Three tickets for Lynyrd Skynyrd, Hank Williams, Jr., and 38 Special, April 11, 6:45 p.m., \$250. 503-2216
2005 JD L110 riding mower, 42" cut, Kohler engine, 140 hours, \$1,350. 527-8116
Baldwin Acrosonic upright console piano and bench, pecan, \$1,500; corner desk, four piece, \$175. 837-1774
Formal dresses: short, strapless, teal, size 4, worn twice; long pink/fuschia, size 5/6, worn once. 541-4445
New motorized wheelchair, \$2,000. 651-9738
XBox Premier w/extra wireless control, \$390. 350-4932
Kasson-Auburn pool table, 8', fruitwood, Queen Anne feet, leather pockets, all accessories, \$1,990. 880-6563
Two solid maple end tables, Formica tops, sugar-bin style, \$40 each; green recliner. 837-6776
Aquariums, bird cages, reptile cages, cage wire, pet supplies. 655-0663
Gas-powered scooter, \$135; large, heavy-duty trashcan on wheels, \$20. 683-9364
Amplifiers: Carte CA125D, \$350; Epiphone Valve Junior, \$100; Epiphone Triggerman, \$225. 468-8136
Chromcraft circular dinette table w/4 swivel chairs, \$200. 881-1249
Nordic Track ski machine, \$125; early American desk, 6 drawer, Formica top, chair, \$75. 881-5897
Queen Anne style sofa, cherry coffee table and two matching end tables, \$300. 25-337-4315
King-size bedroom suite, medium colored wood, \$650; roll top desk, \$20. 883-4910 for directions
Sherwin Williams paint, Classic 99 satin, indoor, color latte, 1 gallon, \$25. 882-3983

Vehicles

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo leather, red, 4.0L, 6-cyl., 191K highway miles, 23mpg, \$3,700. 256-599-3094
1993 Nissan truck, runs well, rough paint job, 200K miles, \$1,500. 656-9681
2000 Isuzu Trooper Ltd., loaded, heated seats, CD, cgr., \$6995. 890-0799
2003 Honda Civic LX, 12K miles, \$13,500 firm. Thelma/256-882-2533
1993 Acura Legend, green, tan leather, new tires, 200K miles, \$1,750. 256-535-9535
Two 2005 Yamaha TTR125 dirt bikes, and NordicTrack Apex 4100i treadmill. 256-783-6840
1995 Mazda, MPV van, 6 cylinder, 250K miles, \$1,800. 256-797-4107
2002 Kia Sedona minivan, \$7,000. 233-6197
1999 Pontiac TransAm, black, loaded, glass T-tops, leather, \$7,995. 682-5758
1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee, Laredo, black, leather seats, 2WD, 150K miles, loaded. 651-4893
2004 Lincoln Aviator, 33.5K miles, 3-2HP, V8, leather, chrome wheels, loaded, \$23,600. 256-426-6708
2005 Mini Cooper S convertible, 6 speed, loaded, includes navigation & run-flats, 25K miles, factory warranty, \$26,000. 882-2776
2003 GMC Yukon, must sell. 256-673-0041
2004 Harley Davidson Road King Classic, pearl white, 13K miles, \$14,900. 256-776-0811
2000 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab, automatic, CD/cassette, power windows & locks, 106K miles, silver, \$9,600. 880-9025

Wanted

Boys and girls to play lacrosse, no experience necessary, Huntsville Lacrosse Association. 256-650-5427/"HB"
To buy: free weights, 51 lbs. and up; 15 or 20 gal. fish tank and supplies. 313-3620

NASA picks its 'Top 20' spinoff technologies; three from Marshall Center make the list

NASA has released its picks for the "Top 20" successfully commercialized NASA spinoff technologies. The Marshall Center is credited with helping advance three of the technologies on the list.

These spinoffs are stellar examples of how NASA continues to transfer its technology to businesses in the private sector.

Many products and services developed in the fields of health and medicine, consumer goods, transportation, public safety, environment and resources management, computer technology and industrial productivity can be attributed to NASA technology.

Developed with Small Business Innovation Research support from the Marshall Center, tiny light-emitting diodes, known as LED chips, used to grow plants on the space shuttle and the International Space Station are lighting the way for wound healing, cancer

therapy and chronic pain alleviation on Earth.

The LED chips are used in a non-invasive, handheld, portable medical device called WARP-10. This device, available from Quantum Devices Inc., of Barneveld, Wis., is intended for the temporary relief of minor muscle and joint pain, arthritis, stiffness and muscle spasms.

The WARP-10 was initially designed to provide military personnel with immediate first-aid care for minor injuries and pain. The technology also has been used in the medical field to activate light-sensitive, tumor-treating drugs as part of a cancer therapy and to speed the healing process for hard-to-heal wounds.

A water filtration system providing safe, affordable drinking water throughout the world is similar to the Regenerative Environmental Control and Life Support System — a complex system of devices

intended to sustain the crew members living on the space station — managed by the Marshall Center. The devices, available through Water Security Corporation Inc., of Sparks, Nev., make use of available resources by turning wastewater from respiration, sweat and urine into drinkable water.

Marshall Center testing of metallic materials contributed to development of Liquidmetal. This type of metal is twice as strong as titanium, but behaves more like a plastic with its flexible, moldable properties.

Liquidmetal is found in many products, including baseball bats, hockey sticks, jewelry and wristwatches, cell phones, orthopedic implants and coatings for industry.

The metal is manufactured by Liquidmetal Technologies Inc. of Lake Forest, Calif.

Audit

Continued from page 1

management representative, expressed her appreciation for the outstanding effort of the Marshall team in a message to the workforce. "I am very appreciative of each employee's effort to demonstrate that Marshall conducts business with exceptional rigor," said Henderson.

"Our focus on doing the right things, in the right way, is critical to our programs and projects being successful. I would like to commend and thank each of you for continuing to demonstrate your commitment to providing quality products and services to our customers," she added.

The Marshall Center uses a number of mechanisms to assess the alignment of its management with the agency's direction and priorities. External audits and reviews, such as the ISO surveillance audit, are useful tools. When coupled with the center's own management oversight, external reviews help create a picture of the rigor and discipline of the center's work. In particular, quality surveillance audits check whether the center is performing the work it has identified and documented as required. External bodies do not dictate which work the center should perform or how.

Adopted by the International Organization for Standardization, ISO is a set of international standards and guidelines for an effective quality system. Attaining these standards supports Marshall's policy to provide quality products and services to customers and partners through the NASA values of safety, teamwork, integrity and mission success.

The Marshall Center is receiving its third registration to ISO 9001 since initial registration in 1998, and its second registration to AS9100. In November 2006, the center achieved first-time registration to ISO 14001 for its Environmental Management System. The system — a formal method of managing the center's environmental responsibilities and focusing on continual improvement — was established in September 2005 to meet federal requirements. That effort was led by Marshall's Environmental Engineering and Occupational Health Office — part of the Office of Center Operations.

For more information on Marshall's ISO 9000 policy, visit Inside Marshall at <http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/> and click on the "ISO 9000" link. To view the audit report click on the "Registration Audits" link.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

'Focus on Marshall' travels to Michoud Assembly Facility

By Lori Meggs

"Focus on Marshall" will go on location in April to visit the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Managed by the Marshall Center, Michoud is one of NASA's valuable assets supporting the Vision for Space Exploration.

The April "Focus on Marshall" will feature a tour of the facility with Patrick Scheuermann, chief operating officer at Michoud. He will explain the unique capabilities and partnerships with business and academia that the facility has developed. He will also talk about Michoud's rich heritage and the new

work that is coming to the facility in the near future.

Viewers will get an up-close look at where Michoud manufactures its primary product — the external fuel tank for the space shuttle. Pat Whipps, team lead in the External Tank Resident Office at Michoud, will show how the tank is built and explain the process of completing a tank and transporting it to the Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

And where is Michoud headed? The Marshall Center's Sheila Cloud, Michoud's Transition Director, will discuss the present goals of the

facility and how they support NASA's mission — from completing work on the external tank to starting work on several new projects within the Constellation Program.

"Focus on Marshall" airs on Marshall TV and on Desktop TV the first and third Tuesday and Thursday of each month at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. The program also will be posted on Inside Marshall and the Marshall home page within the NASA portal Web site.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Hinode

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Spectrometer, are observing the different layers of the sun. Studies focus on the solar atmosphere from the visible surface of the sun, known as the photosphere, to the corona, the outer atmosphere of the sun that extends outward into the solar system.

"By coordinating the measurements of all three instruments, Hinode is showing how changes in the structure of the magnetic field and the release of magnetic energy in the low atmosphere spread outward through the corona and into interplanetary space to create space weather," said John Davis, project scientist from the Marshall Center.

Space weather involves the production of energetic particles and emissions of electromagnetic radiation. These bursts of energy can black out long-distance communications over entire continents and disrupt the global navigational system.

"Hinode images are revealing irrefutable evidence for the presence of turbulence-driven processes that are bringing magnetic fields, on all scales, to the sun's surface, resulting in an extremely dynamic chromosphere or gaseous envelope around the sun," said Alan Title, a corporate senior fellow at Lockheed Martin in Palo Alto, Calif., and consulting professor of physics at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif.

Hinode is a collaborative mission led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and includes the European Space Agency and Britain's Particle Physics Astronomy Research Council. The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, Tokyo, developed the Solar Optical Telescope, which provided the fine-scale structure views



David Higginbotham/NSFC

Scientists from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and the Marshall Center meet at the National Space Science and Technology Center to discuss images from Hinode, an international mission to study the sun. Marshall manages the development of the mission's scientific instrumentation, which was provided by NASA, industry and other federal agencies.

of the sun's lower atmosphere, and developed the X-ray Telescope in collaboration with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory of Cambridge, Mass. The X-ray Telescope captured the rapid, time-sequenced images of explosive events in the sun's outer atmosphere.

"By following the evolution of the solar structures that outline the magnetic field before, during and after these explosive events, we hope to find clear evidence to establish that magnetic reconnection is the underlying cause for this explosive activity," said Leon Golub of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

Marshall's Payload Operations Center conducts first simulation with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency



At left, in NASA's Payload Operations Center at the Marshall Center, payload operations directors Rick Rodriguez, left, and Emily Willis, participate in the first simulation of International Space Station science activities with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, also known as JAXA. Willis is responsible for defining the interfaces between the American and Japanese payload teams. The teams conducted the long-distance training exercise on March 8 from control rooms in the Huntsville Operations Support Center and the Tsukuba Space Center in Tsukuba, Japan.

David Higginbotham/MSFC

At right, members of the payload operations team of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency at the Tsukuba Space Center in Tsukuba, Japan, conduct activities during the joint simulation with NASA's Payload Operations Center at the Marshall Center. NASA and JAXA are working together in preparation for the arrival of the Japanese Experiment Module, Kibo, at the station. Kibo — scheduled to launch in 2008 — will enhance the unique research capabilities of the orbiting complex by providing an additional environment in which astronauts can conduct science experiments.



Courtesy photo

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