

# NASA News

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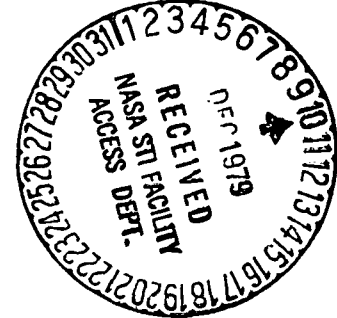
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## SHUTTLE TOPS 1980 LAUNCH SCHEDULE



The first launch of the Space Shuttle has been targeted for June 30, 1980.

Achieving this goal depends on the following events at the NASA Kennedy Space Center, Fla.:

- Late March 1980 - Rollout of orbiter Columbia from the Orbiter Processing Facility to the Vertical Assembly Building.
- Mid-April 1980 - Rollout of the complete Shuttle stack (orbiter, solid rocket boosters and external tank) from the Vertical Assembly Building to Launch Pad 39A.
- Mid-May 1980 - Conduct a Flight Readiness Firing (a 20-second firing of the Shuttle main engines on the launch pad).
- June 30, 1980 - First flight of the Space Shuttle.

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November 30, 1979

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Another milestone that must be met to achieve the launch date goal is Space Shuttle Main Engine Certification scheduled for June 30, 1980.

Although NASA will be working toward this end-of-June launch date, Dr. Robert A. Frosch, NASA Administrator, has emphasized that "sometime in August or September is a much more likely launch date" since problems unknown at this time could cause further delays.

In other 1980 activities, NASA plans a total of nine unmanned launches, eight of which will be reimbursable services for other organizations.

The 1980 launch schedule for the reimbursable activities, using expendable launch vehicles, follows:

Launch	Mission	Vehicle	Site	Description
January 1980	FLTSATCOM	Atlas Centaur	ESMC	DOD - Communications Reimbursable
January 1980	SMM-A	Delta	ESMC	NASA - Scientific Solar Maximum Mission
February 1980	Intelsat V-A	Atlas Centaur	ESMC	Intelsat - Communications Reimbursable
April 1980	NOAA-B	Atlas-F	WSMC	NOAA - Weather Reimbursable
May 1980	Intelsat V-B	Atlas Centaur	ESMC	Intelsat - Communications Reimbursable
July 1980	Navy-20	Scout	WSMC	DOD - Transit Reimbursable
August 1980	GOES-B	Delta	ESMC	NOAA - Weather Reimbursable
August 1980	Intelsat V-C	Atlas Centaur	ESMC	Intelsat - Communications Reimbursable
October 1980	Navy-21	Scout	WSMC	DOD - Transit Reimbursable
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