



Space Transportation System Recordation

NASA's Space Shuttle Program (SSP) has served America's science and research programs for over 30 years. The shuttle, which was on the drawing board even before humans first landed on the moon in 1969, was envisioned as a way to deliver humans and cargo to and from a space station. In the three decades since it became a reality, NASA's Space Transportation System (STS), first launched in April 1981, is the only reusable spacecraft capable of delivering and returning large payloads and scientific experiments to and from space. Today, the

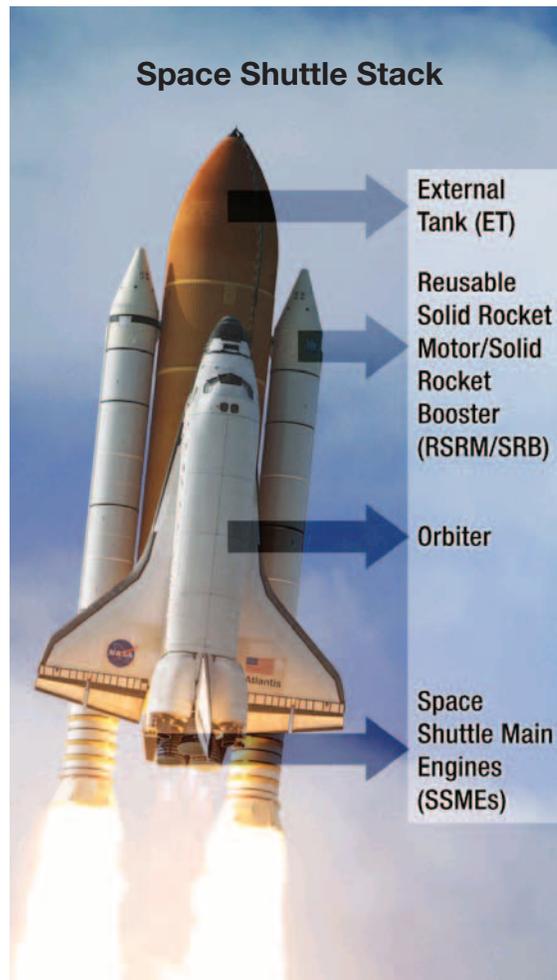


shuttle fleet is comprised of Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour. Shuttle flights supported space station Mir and were essential in the construction of the International Space Station. They delivered the Hubble Space Telescope to space, kept it in working order over the course of 20 years and four repair missions, and deployed planetary spacecraft to study Jupiter, Venus and the sun. In the orbiters' onboard laboratories, hundreds of experiments have helped scientists study the effects of microgravity on materials, plants, animals and human beings, to the benefit of life on Earth.

The fleet is scheduled for retirement in 2010 after 134 missions.

National Historic Status

The space shuttle orbiters have been designated as "eligible" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The contributing hardware consists of the external fuel tank, space shuttle main engines and solid rocket boosters. The complete assembly of an orbiter and the contributing hardware is often referred to as a "stack".





NASA has a programmatic agreement with the Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum, to be the primary curator for the management and preservation of NASA's historical artifacts. The agency will continue working with the Smithsonian and the General Services Administration for placement of excess and obsolete SSP inventory.

Recordation Undertaking

NASA has been directed to remove the Space Transportation System from active service in 2010. This action will result in the ending of the SSP. Property of historic significance that is no longer required after the program ends must have its history recorded. Recordation is underway with the support of the SSP and various NASA centers. NASA plans to perform a

Level II Historic American Engineering Record, in accordance with Department of Interior standards. The undertaking will capture the historic property through collections of photographs, drawings, archival files and by preparing a written history of the property.

NASA recordation activities will cover the historic phases for engineering of the stack from concept development to retirement including design, test and operations; the unique features of the three active orbiters; the ferry operations for the Shuttle Carrier Aircraft; major design modifications and mission operations post Challenger and Columbia.

This undertaking does not cover the disposition, or safing of the orbiters, nor other buildings, structures, sites and districts associated with the SSP and any other personal property or artifacts not hardwired onto the stack.

Recordation Team Membership

Several NASA centers and organizations are involved in the shuttle recordation activity. They include:

- Johnson Space Center
- Kennedy Space Center
- Marshall Space Flight Center
- Dryden Flight Research Center
- NASA Headquarters
- Michoud Assembly Facility
- Stennis Space Center
- White Sands Test Facility/White Sands Space Harbor
- Florida, Texas, Alabama and California State Historic Preservation Offices
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- National Park Service

Johnson Space Center is leading the stack recordation effort in consultation with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. The final report will be maintained by the Library of Congress and will be available to future generations.

All comments or questions can be sent to:
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