

Re: Foam still a key concern for shuttle launch

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 - *Date:* 18 Aug 2006 10:45:17 -0700
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The hubble space telescope (hst) shuttle servicing and repair missions have been another huge accomplishment for the orbiter program. Nasa's maintaining of one of the greatest astronomical observatories hst has allowed astronomers to utilize updated cameras (for instance wide field improvements) and produced phenomenal observations and images for the world to see. The below nasa links state that engineering analysis from sts-114, and sts-121 will help determine if a the hst servicing mission sm4 possibly slated somewhere 2007/2008, is safe to perform. If deemed not safe from flight testing and analysis, then I have grudgingly conceded hst servicing missions will not happen, in light of the caib's recommendations. But I also have been encouraged by the recent development of techniques programmers have employed in the case the hst is reduced down to 1 gyro for stabilization, if the hst servicing mission of sm4 is not approved for safety, or budget purposes.

tom

<http://wfc3.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.php>

<http://hubble.nasa.gov/missions/intro.php#updates>

"Servicing Mission 4 Update (06.16.2006)

The Hubble Space Telescope Program, resident at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, continues to work toward a possible Servicing Mission 4 (SM4) in late-2007 or early-2008... Given the possibility that SM4 might occur as soon as 18-24 months from now, preparations for the mission cannot be delayed until after the Shuttle has demonstrated its robustness in the manner just described.

Accordingly, and in response to direction from the NASA Administrator, the Hubble Program has for the last year been proceeding with normal planning and preparations for a possible SM4."

Eric Chomko wrote:

What about HST repair? I think you left that out, though unintentionally.

Eric

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