

Re: Why Atlantis ?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005-12/msg00243.html>

- *From:* jain@xxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sat, 17 Dec 2005 18:47:41 +0000
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On 2005-12-17, John Doe <jdoe@xxxxxxx> wrote:

- > In another thread, there is the rumour that NASA would retire Atlantis
- > and keep the fleet at 2.
- >
- > Lets assume that the government confirms the retirement of one shuttle.
- >
- > Are there technical reasons to select Atlantis as the one to retire ?
- >
- > is the ship itself not as good as Endeavour or Discovery ? If so, what
- > portions of the ship are inferior ?
- >
- > Or is it just a question of Atlantis being next in line for major
- > maintenance cycle so it is the logical choice ?

Endeavour is coming towards the end of her latest ODMP, so they may want to get at least some mileage out of the upgrades. IIRC, she's also the newest, and lightest Orbiter (Highest Payload), So there are good reasons *not* to retire Endeavour.

Discovery is already in the flow for the next mission, so retiring her "immediately" could have a follow-on impact on when they could fly the next mission.

- > Or is all this 99.99999% political and politicians just randomly
- > selecting one shuttle for retirement ?

Looking at what else is going on at the moment with the NASA Budget, It would not surprise me if, indeed, this was a budget ploy.

Is Atlantis still supposed to be ready to fly a rescue flight, just incase there's a problem with Discovery ? Or has that been relaxed – I've not been keeping a close eye on things lately.

I seem to remember that NASA had prioritised work on Discovery, and Atlantis to get ready for STS 114, leaving post ODMP Endeavour work, or has that been caught up with now ?

If indeed Atlantis was to be available "on standby", and (hypothetically) gets retired "immediately", that would require

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Endeavour to take the "rescue" mission. What impact would her current state have on the STS-121 launch date ?

Reading the reports on <http://www.nasawatch.com/> about the PRCB meetings, I see no discussion of using Endeavour instead of Atlantis as a rescue orbiter, or any impact that might have on the timelines.

Iain.

• *Follow-Ups:*

◆ *Re: Why Atlantis ?*

◇ *From:* Skylon

• *References:*

◆ *Why Atlantis ?*

◇ *From:* John Doe

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