

Space Shuttle External Tank slated to fly next spring ready for foam spray on intertank; a major step to return Shuttle

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Workers at Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans have transferred External Tank 120 — the [Space Shuttle](#) External Tank slated for the launch of the orbiter Discovery **next spring** - into the facility's vehicle assembly building. The move - a major step toward returning the Space Shuttle to flight - brings the tank one step closer to its eventual transfer to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Workers at Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans have transferred External Tank 120 — the Space Shuttle External Tank slated for the launch of the orbiter Discovery next spring — into the facility's vehicle assembly building. The tank is erected vertically so that foam insulation can be applied on the liquid hydrogen tank-to-intertank flange area, a tank structural connection point. The foam will be applied with an enhanced finishing procedure that requires two technicians, a new mold-injection procedure to the intertank's ribbing and real-time videotaped surveillance of the process. The foam was removed from all existing tanks when the intertank area was identified as a potential debris-shedding source following the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and her crew on Feb. 1, 2003. The move — a major step toward returning the Space Shuttle to flight — brings the tank one step closer to its eventual transfer to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Source: NASA

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