

Countdown begins for Tuesday space shuttle launch

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Astronaut Nicole Stott, top left, a mission specialist and European Space Agency astronaut Christer Fuglesang, of Sweden, members of the space shuttle Discovery crew, arrive at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009. Discovery is targeted for an early morning launch on Aug. 25.(AP Photo/John Raoux)

(AP) -- NASA has begun the launch countdown for space shuttle Discovery.

The countdown clocks began ticking late Friday night. Discovery is scheduled to blast off early Tuesday morning. Forecasters put the odds

of acceptable conditions at 70 percent.

Discovery and a crew of seven will deliver about 17,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to the [international space station](#).

[NASA](#) test director Steve Payne said the only outstanding issue is a shuttle power controller that had to be replaced, but so far, all the testing looks good.

NASA has until Aug. 30 to launch Discovery, otherwise the shuttle will have to get in line behind a Japanese cargo ship and a Russian Soyuz spacecraft that are set to fly in September.

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