

WELCOME BACK!

Nearly six years ago, the Dawn Mission was chosen to be the ninth discovery mission launched by NASA. The mission has had many challenges on its path to the launch pad. The spacecraft was on the pad ready to launch in July but had to be removed from the launch schedule. We are now back on the pad and planning to launch on September 26 between 7:25 and 7:54 a.m. EST—but be sure to keep checking our Web site for any mission updates at:

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Many people have put in countless hours of work and dreaming to see this mission take flight. We hope this E-Newsletter helps you share in our excitement for launch and our anticipation of the discoveries this mission will make toward understanding the origins of our solar system.

The Dawn EPO Team

ON THE LAUNCH PAD, AGAIN!

After getting strapped into its transportation canister, the Dawn spacecraft slowly made its 25 km journey from the Astrotech Space Operations facility to Launch Pad 17-B at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Mission News: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2007-099>

Latest images from the Cape:

<http://mediaarchive.ksc.nasa.gov/search.cfm?cat=173%3Ehttp://mediaarchive.ksc.nasa.gov/search.cfm?cat=173>

Be sure to also check the Mission Status for the latest reports and updates

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/status.asp>

WATCHING THE LAUNCH

If you're lucky enough to be in Florida, you shouldn't have a problem seeing launch, as launches tend to be visible from most parts of the state! But the rest of us will have to make do with Watch the Dawn Launch on [NASA TV online](#). After launch, be sure to check back in our [Gallery](#) to see images and videos of launch.

NASA TV: <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/>

Dawn Gallery: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/index.asp>

OBSERVING CHALLENGE

If you're lucky enough to be in Alaska or Hawaii, you might be able to see the Dawn spacecraft shortly after launch. In Marc Rayman's recent [Dawn Journal](#), he included a cryptic remark in the last sentence about catching Dawn's early light shortly after launch. It turns out that, as viewed from Hawaii or Alaska, Dawn will appear to pass very close to the Pleiades less than 2 hours after liftoff. We don't know how bright it will be. As soon as Marc sends us the finder charts, we'll post them! So, go out and try to observe it, get a picture and send it in!

Dawn finder charts: http://www.dawn-mission.org/feature_stories/charts.asp

Amateur Observers' Program: <http://dawn-aop.astro.umd.edu/>

Dawn Journal: <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/journal.asp>

HOST YOUR OWN DAWN LAUNCH EVENT

A number of informal science facilities -- a public library, a meteorite outreach program, and science centers -- are hosting Dawn Launch Events. Review Dawn's educational materials and choose the most suitable activities for your event:

- Find A Meteorite <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/Meteorite/index.asp>
- Career Connections <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/people/careers/index.asp>
- Dawn Kids activities <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnKids/index.asp>
- Clickworkers <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/clickworkers/index.asp>
- The History and Discovery of Asteroids module
http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/1_hist_dawn/index.asp
- Structure and Properties of Matter: Ion Propulsion module
http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/2_ion_prop/index.asp
- Materials from the Amateur Observers' Program <http://dawn-aop.astro.umd.edu/>

If you provide feedback, you will receive a special thank you gift! To sign up, contact Lisa Maxfield at lmaxfield@mcrel.org

MISSION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

What? You don't have the Dawn Mission goals memorized? Well, okay, it has been a few months since our last E-News. Of course, pretty much everything is on the Dawn Web site at <http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov>. But for a quick summary, you can refresh your memory by reviewing the Mission Factsheet. You can also watch our cool video narrated by Leonard Nimoy. Then, take a quiz about the mission (the name is a little deceptive, but go ahead and try it!).

Mission Factsheet: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/dawn_fact_sheet.pdf

Mission Video: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5412000236766165719&hl=en>

Mission Planning Quiz: <http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/MissionPlanner/MissionPlanner.html>

HOT TECHNOLOGY

Dawn's propulsion system is hot stuff, fully charged and out of this world.

About Ion Propulsion: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/ion_prop.asp
Interactive: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/ion_engine_interactive/
Educ Module: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnClassrooms/2_ion_prop/index.asp
The Prius of Space: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/dawn/news/dawn-20070913f.html

AN INSIDE PERSPECTIVE OF THE DAWN MISSION

Dr. Marc Rayman, Dawn's Project System Engineer, continues to provide a unique perspective on the mission in his [Dawn Journal](#). In his 12 September update, Marc details the revised flight profile that the spacecraft will take because of its September launch date. He also hints at an exciting observing opportunity for observers in Alaska and Hawaii.

Dawn Journal: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/journal_9_12_07.asp

ASK A SCIENTIST

Have a question about the Dawn mission and want to communicate directly with a member of the Dawn Mission team? Click on the "Ask a Scientist" link located at the bottom of the Dawn Web site or simply go to: http://www.dawn-mission.org/ask_scientist/mailToDawnScientist.asp

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Continually seeking ways to improve the mission Web site, Dawn Education and Public Outreach is eager to receive your feedback. Please share your thoughts by completing a brief survey at: <http://survey.mcrel.org/scripts/qweb.cgi?4CFEF46>

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Please forward this e-mail to others interested in NASA missions. New subscribers may join the Dawn Mission E-News mailing list on our Web site at: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/DawnMedia/e_news.asp

Dawn Mission Outreach E-News features information about the mission, its outreach Web site, and products, services, and materials available from the Dawn Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) team. Dawn is the ninth Discovery mission in NASA's Science Mission Directorate and is a collaborative partnership made up of the University of California, Los Angeles; Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Orbital Sciences Corporation; Los Alamos National Laboratory; German Aerospace Center; Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research; Italian Space Agency; and Italian National Institute of Astrophysics. Dawn outreach materials are developed under contract by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), Denver, CO.