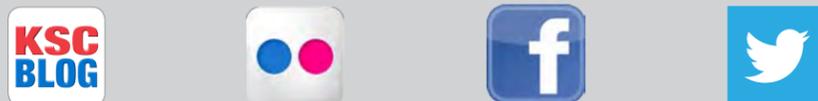


# KENNEDY SPACE CENTER'S SPACEPORT MAGAZINE CONTENTS

- 6.....Kennedy firmly established as a 21st century spaceport
- 10.....GSDO Critical Design Review marks progress
- 14.....Researchers test prototype spacesuits at Kennedy
- 16.....Station in North Dakota provides extreme habitat
- 19.....Future crew boarding area under construction
- 22.....Jason-3 to set sights on ocean circulation, climate
- 25.....New tracking stations to provide latest technology
- 28.....Technology improves mission safety, efficiency
- 34.....Newly developed methods earn GreenGov award

Front Cover: As we roll into 2016, Kennedy Space Center is looking forward to a busy launch year. For more information, go to <http://www.nasa.gov/kennedy>.

To get the latest Kennedy Space Center updates, follow us on our **Blog, Flickr, Facebook and Twitter.**



## THE SPACEPORT MAGAZINE TEAM

| Editorial                            | Writers Group        | Creative Group |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Managing Editor ..... Amanda Griffin | Anna Heiney          | Bob Granath    |
| Editor..... Frank Ochoa-Gonzales     | Kay Grinter          | Richard Beard  |
| Assistant Editor..... Linda Herridge | Frank Ochoa-Gonzales | Lynda Brammer  |
| Copy Editor..... Kay Grinter         | Steven Sicheloff     | Matthew Young  |
|                                      | Greg Lee             |                |

## NASA'S LAUNCH SCHEDULE

**Date:** Jan. 17, 1:42 p.m. EST  
**Mission:** Jason-3 (NOAA)  
**Description:** Jason-3, a mission led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, is the latest in a series of U.S.-European satellite missions that have been measuring the height of the ocean surface for 23 years.  
<http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/jason-3/>

**Date:** Feb. 7  
**Mission:** SpaceX CRS-8 Resupply Mission to the International Space Station  
**Description:** Launching from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, SpaceX's eighth commercial resupply mission under NASA contract to the International Space Station will deliver several tons of supplies, including new science experiments and technology research.  
<http://go.nasa.gov/WQkyJf>

**Date:** September 2016  
**Mission:** OSIRIS-REx  
**Description:** The mission will study Bennu, a near-Earth asteroid that is about one-third of a mile across.  
<http://go.nasa.gov/1ItsRkl>

**Date:** October 2016  
**Mission:** Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R Series (GOES-R)  
**Description:** The advanced spacecraft and instrument technology used on the GOES-R series will result in more timely and accurate forecasts and warnings. The launch vehicle that will place GOES-R into geosynchronous orbit will be an Atlas V 541 expendable launch vehicle from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.  
<http://go.nasa.gov/1YubP2g>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



# KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

## PRITAL THAKRAR

I am a mechanical design engineer at the Prototype Development Laboratory within the Structures and Launch Accessories group. I work with a small, specialized team that provides design, analysis and fabrication support for everything from quick-turnaround technology projects to large ground support equipment.

My career at Kennedy began with an internship the summer of 2011 in the Structures and Mechanisms Design group. I then became a co-op student with Safety and Mission Assurance before moving to the Prototype Lab. The best part of my job is seeing a project all the way through — from drafting requirements to breaking out a hand drill to finish off the final product. I'm very fortunate to work beside skilled machinists and engineers who help me better understand how to design practically.

Outside of my everyday job, I'm helping to coordinate the yearly Innovation Expo. I also chair Launching Leaders, an early career group in which we connect and train young professionals on center and in the community. I love meeting new people across the center and learning how we can change the face of the space industry through our words and actions.

The people I have met out here are incredibly sharp and willing to teach. I can't wait to see where the exciting work at Kennedy leads me in my career!

