

# NASA News

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25th Anniversary  
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## LAUNCH DATE SET FOR EIGHTH SPACE SHUTTLE FLIGHT

The eighth flight of the Space Shuttle (STS-8) is scheduled for launch from the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on Aug. 30, 1983.

The launch date provides NASA and contractors extra time to continue ground verification testing of the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) prior to in-orbit testing during the STS-8 mission. Proper operation of the TDRSS is essential for the STS-9 Spacelab mission now scheduled for Oct. 28, 1983. If necessary, the scheduled five day mission may be extended an additional day to allow for more complete checkout of the TDRSS.

STS-8 will be commanded by Richard H. Truly, pilot of the second Shuttle mission conducted in November 1981. Other crew members include pilot Daniel C. Brandenstein and three mission specialists: Dale A. Gardner, Dr. Guion S. Bluford Jr., and Dr. William E. Thornton.

July 29, 1983

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The Indian National Satellite (INSAT 1-B) will be deployed from Challenger's cargo bay on the second day of the mission. Flight days three and four involve operations with the Payload Deployment and Retrieval System test article using the Canadian-built remote manipulator arm. TDRSS testing will be interspersed throughout the mission.

The mission will culminate with a night landing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

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