

SPACE SHUTTLE
STS-59/ENDEAVOUR



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NASA's Mission to Planet Earth program will progress with operation of the Space Radar Laboratory-1 (SRL-1), which is making its first flight aboard the Space Shuttle orbiter Endeavour on Mission STS-59. Through the use of imaging radar and an atmospheric instrument, SRL-1 will make a detailed study of how our global environment is changing, with a focus on climate shifts. The Earth dominates the STS-59 crew insignia, reflecting the focus of the Space Radar Laboratory mission on our planet's surface and atmosphere. The golden symbol of the astronaut corps emblem sweeps over the Earth's surface from the Orbiter Endeavour. It also signals the importance of the human element in space exploration and the study of our own planet. Using the unique vantage point in space, Endeavour and its crew — along with scientists from around the world — will study the Earth and its atmosphere to better understand our environment. The star field visible below the Earth represents the many talents and skills of the international SRL-1 team in working to make this "Mission to Planet Earth" a scientific and operational success. The 6-member astronaut crew will be commanded by Sidney M. Gutierrez and piloted by Kevin P. Chilton. Linda M. Godwin, a mission specialist, will be payload commander on this mission. The other three mission specialists are Jerome "Jay" Apt, Michael Richard "Rich" Clifford and Thomas David Jones.