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## SPACE SHUTTLE ORBITER ENDEAVOUR (OV-105)

In April 1991, 223 years after British navigator and explorer Captain James Cook commanded the sailing ship *Endeavour* on voyages across the unknown seas, another *Endeavour*, America's newest Space Shuttle, will debut, bound for voyages into an infinite, even more mysterious ocean called space. *Endeavour* is the fifth operational orbiter built by Rockwell International's Space Systems Division (SSD) for NASA's Space Shuttle Program.

America's best Space Shuttle ever, *Endeavour* was completed on schedule and under budget. Rockwell SSD received authority to proceed with construction of *Endeavour* in August 1987. Orbiter structural spare parts built under a 1983 NASA contract to Rockwell SSD were used to produce many of *Endeavour*'s basic elements.

*Endeavour*'s design incorporates the many modifications, upgrades, and technologies added to the orbiter fleet over the past several years. While essentially identical to *Discovery* and *Atlantis*, *Endeavour* has two major features that will temporarily distinguish it from the rest of the fleet. First, *Endeavour* is installed with a drag chute to aid deceleration and reduce loads on the landing gear and brakes. The other orbiters will be retrofitted with drag chutes. Second, *Endeavour* is designed to accommodate an extended duration mission capability that will enable it to remain in orbit for up to 28 days at a time.

Upon its scheduled debut on a daring satellite repair mission in May 1992, *Endeavour* will join its sister ships, *Columbia*, *Discovery* and *Atlantis*, increasing the robustness of America's manned space program and strengthening our ability to successfully meet the challenging space objectives of the 90s and beyond.