

Thursday, October 19, 1989

# Atlantis successfully thunders into space, heads for Jupiter

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis thundered from its launch pad and darted between two storm systems Wednesday, starting the plutonium-powered Galileo probe on a twice-delayed, roundabout journey to Jupiter.

The 132-ton winged Atlantis with a crew of five lifted off at 12:53 p.m., riding a 700-foot column of flame out over the Atlantic on a five-day mission that anti-nuclear activists fearful of a Challenger-like accident were unable to stop.

Two minutes after liftoff, the two solid fuel booster rockets burned out and fell away and the shuttle continued under the thrust of its three liquid fueled engines.

"You looked marvelous going up," Mission Control told commander Don Williams as the winged spacecraft reached orbit after two launch postponements.

"I feel a lot better," Williams said.

The Galileo's troubles — including money problems over the years and recent protests over its nuclear power supply — were left behind,

and the probe was ready to begin its six-year, 2.4 billion-mile roundabout journey to Jupiter.

The astronauts were to release the probe from Atlantis' cargo bay later in the day. The shuttle circled Earth at an altitude of 184 miles.

Although concern over the Galileo's 49.4-pound plutonium power supply was argued in court, it drew no protesters to the Kennedy Space Center on launch day. Environmentalists had argued that a Challenger-like accident could scatter deadly plutonium-238 over Florida.

Nothing like that happened Wednesday, and even the weather cooperated. Clouds and rain threatened to halt the launch until the last minutes of the countdown, but the clouds suddenly dissipated and the shuttle darted into a bright blue sky, trailing a 700-foot geyser of fire.

Thousands were at the Kennedy Space Center and nearby vantage points to watch the start of the 31st space shuttle mission, during which the astronauts will deploy Galileo and also conduct medical and other scientific experiments.

The \$1.5 billion Galileo, the most expensive unmanned space vehicle ever built, is expected to give the best look yet at the mysteries of another planet. Its journey to the solar system's biggest planet will take six years.

The liftoff was the start of a voyage that will take the probe on a looping path past Venus in February, back to within 620 miles of Earth in December 1990 and past Earth again at a 200-mile altitude two years later. The craft will arrive at Jupiter in December 1995 for a two-year orbit.

"It is the Rolls-Royce of spacecraft," Clayne Yeates, a mission manager said.

Atlantis was grounded Tuesday by rain and last week by a faulty engine computer and its launch was in doubt within minutes of liftoff because of a high-pressure cold front and offshore rain clouds.

About 200 armed security guards in boats and in the air were alert for anti-nuclear trespassers who had threatened to sit on the pad if necessary to halt the launch, but liftoff

took place without incident.

The Atlantis has a crew of five on the mission that ends Monday with landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California at 2:38 p.m. EDT.

The astronauts were to release 6,700-pound Galileo from Atlantis' cargo bay about 6-and-a-half hours after liftoff for a looping, seven-2.4-billion-mile journey to Jupiter, the colossus of the solar system with a radius 11 times that of Earth.

As part of the mission, a robot will separate from the Galileo spacecraft and plunge through Jupiter's gaseous atmosphere.

## AMR criticizes takeover attempt, claims company is not for sale

DALLAS (AP) — AMR Corp. called Donald Trump's aborted \$7.5 billion takeover attempt "ill-considered and reckless" Wednesday and said the parent company of American Airlines "has not been, and is not, for sale."

At the same time, the company as expected reported lower third quarter earnings and an "unhappy" outlook for the future, saying those results underlined the danger of saddling an airline with high debt levels.

In its first statement since Trump's \$120 per share offer was made Oct. 4, the AMR board said: "We are pleased that Mr. Donald Trump has withdrawn his uninvited proposal to negotiate a cash merger agreement with AMR."

"AMR has been operating pursuant to a highly successful long-term plan designed to create growth and value," the statement said. "We see absolutely no basis for departing from that strategy and believe that the imposition of a highly leveraged capital structure would have very unfavorable effects."

The board took no other action stemming from Trump's offer, said spokesman John Hotard. Some analysts had speculated the directors might erect stronger takeover defenses, such as taking advantage of lower stock prices to create an employee stock ownership plan that would make a hostile takeover almost impossible.

Meanwhile, AMR was the most actively traded issue on the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, with the price climbing 75 cents in composite trading to close at \$74.

Trump had made his offer in an Oct. 4 letter to the board, which promised to review the proposal "in due course," but said very little else.

On Monday, the billionaire developer said he was withdrawing the offer for the time being because of the fall in AMR's stock price in the wake of troubles surrounding a \$6.75 billion management-employee buyout of UAL Corp., parent of United Airlines. The price had reached \$107 immediately after his offer, but fell to the mid-\$70s following the Friday the 13th drop.

Financing questions dogged Trump's proposal with analysts questioning how he would pay for the deal beyond the \$1 billion in equity he promised to put up himself. AMR had focused on the debt in its initial response, and Chairman Robert L. Crandall repeated that concern Wednesday.

"Imposing extraordinary levels of debt on an airline, particularly without the active cooperation of both management and employees, will not serve the long-term interests of anyone," Crandall said.

"The public will be disadvantaged if excessive financing reduces an airline's ability to seize new opportunities, to promptly replace old airplanes, to be responsive to environmental desires for quieter airplanes or to do any of the host of other capital-intensive things consistent with remaining a world class airline competitor," Crandall said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee voted Wednesday to give the Transportation Department authority to block major airline takeovers, after backers of the bill said travelers want assurances a purchaser's heavy debt would not jeopardize safety.

Under the legislation, the Transportation Department would be obligated to block the purchase of 15 percent of an airline's voting stock if the deal would jeopardize safety, lead to a break up of the company, hinder its ability to compete, or leave the carrier in the hands of a foreign interest.

"This bill does not prevent airline takeovers or significantly interfere with an owner's property rights. It merely gives DOT the opportunity to review those transactions that might harm the public interest," Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt, R-Ark., said.

"Air travelers expect assurances that the heavy debt load incurred during an acquisition will not lead to a deterioration of safety," Hammerschmidt told the House Public Works and Transportation Committee before it approved the bill by a vote of 23-5.

Opponents claimed the bill would be the first step toward congressional regulation of leveraged buyouts, while Hammerschmidt said the legislation is similar to procedures used by the Justice Department to review mergers under anti-trust laws.

"The government doesn't have a role in determining individual transactions and second-guessing the market place," countered Rep. Arlan Stangeland, R-Minn., calling the bill an impediment to the economics of the airline industry.

The committee defeated an amendment by Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., which would have barred a takeover if it would result in a major reduction of wages, benefits or workers.

The House bill had been rushed through Congress because of concerns about Donald Trump's attempts to takeover AMR Corp. of Fort Worth, parent company of American Airlines Inc.

## Drug may cut transplant costs, aid in survival

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A new drug believed 50 to 100 times more powerful in preventing organ rejection might cut transplant costs and ease critical shortages of donor organs, doctors said Wednesday.

"The biggest bonus is better survival," Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, head of the University of Pittsburgh's transplant program said.

Starzl heads the world's only clinical trials of the Japanese drug, FK-506. As of Wednesday, 11 transplant patients had received the experimental medication, including a few children.

FK-506 is far more effective and safer than cyclosporine, the major anti-rejection drug now being used, Starzl said. He estimated it to be 50 to 100 times more potent.

"Although we are idolaters of cyclosporine" and "have been, in fact, one of the prime developers of cyclosporine, we've always realized its limitations practically from week two onward," Starzl said at a news conference.

"There's a prospect now of doing things that couldn't be done previously" such as intestinal transplants and, ultimately, cross-species transplants, Starzl said.

The new drug shows promise in treating certain liver diseases thus eliminating the need for a transplant, Dr. David Van Thiel, medical director of transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh said. It also holds promise for treating rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and other disorders impairing the immune system.

Dr. Robert Corry, president of the United Network for Organ Sharing, said he has not yet reviewed the findings but has "every reason to believe that Dr. Starzl is correct."

The drug's potential became apparent within only eight months of use on humans.

"We're shocked by it because it went so fast. It was like throwing a gasoline bomb," said Starzl, who will report his findings in an upcoming edition of the British medical journal *Lancet* and at a scientific meeting Oct. 31 in Spain.

## Bill would give government control over airline takeovers

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<b>IRRITABLE BOWEL STUDY</b>														
Symptomatic patients with recent physician diagnosed, irritable bowel syndrome to participate in a short study. \$100 incentive for those chosen to participate.														
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
<b>PAINFUL MUSCULAR INJURIES</b>														
Individual with recent lower back or neck pain, sprain, strains, muscle spasms, or painful muscular sport injury to participate in a one week research study. \$50 incentive for those chosen to participate.														
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
<b>HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY</b>														
Individuals with high blood pressure, either on or off blood pressure medication to participate in a high blood pressure study. \$300 incentive for those chosen to participate.														
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
<b>FEVER STUDY</b>														
Short at home study to evaluate individuals 17 years and older who have a temperature over 100° f. \$50. incentive for those chosen to participate. Nights and weekends call 361-1500.														
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
<b>Cold Study</b>														
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