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Department of Administrative Services Team with NASA to Offer Space Artifacts for Education

Atlanta, GA-The Department of Administrative Services' (DOAS) Surplus Properties Division has partnered with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to participate in the Federal Surplus Personal Property Program to offer many of the Space Shuttle program items designated as artifacts.

With only six more scheduled missions before NASA's official decommissioning of the Space Shuttle program, the General Service Administration and NASA has granted Georgia's Surplus Property Division the opportunity to offer shuttle artifacts to schools, local communities and other educationally based entities. The Space Shuttle is composed of thousands of items, including several large components from its massive orbiter (the section of the shuttle that actually carries the astronauts), three main engines, the external tank, and two solid fuel rocket boosters.

The Space Shuttle has played an important educational and exploration role in American history. NASA will make special efforts to identify items that may be of special interest to public museums and educational institutions.

Although NASA plans to decommission the Space Shuttle program by the end of 2010, "NASA is not going out of business, but rather beginning a new way of doing business for the next 50 years. We are extending our reach beyond low earth orbit, which is truly exciting," says William Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator/Space Operations.

"We are proud and excited about partnering with NASA for the proper redistribution of the Shuttle artifacts. Georgia's Surplus Division is one of the nation's first all virtual operations and positioned properly to work with NASA to help further its mission of exploration and education," Brad Douglas, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Administrative Services.

An actual list and photos of Space Shuttle artifacts can found on several websites; <http://gsaccess.gov/NASAWel.htm>; artifacts@gsa.gov; <http://www.nasa.gov/transition>; <http://spaceoperations.nasa.gov>; and <http://www.nasa.gov/directorates/esmd>

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