



## ONE LAST NIGHT

Space Shuttle *Endeavour* roars away from Launch Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., last month, one of the last scheduled night launches of a shuttle. On a mission to the International Space Station (ISS), *Endeavour* carried the Tranquility and Cupola modules, essentially completing the U.S. construction of the orbiting laboratory. Boeing is the prime contractor to NASA for the station; in addition to designing and building all the major U.S.-supplied elements, Boeing is responsible for ensuring the successful integration of new hardware and software. With space shuttle operations scheduled to end this year, Boeing will draw on its extensive human spaceflight experience, as well as its expertise

in space station operations and cargo processing, to bid on NASA's upcoming ISS Cargo Mission Contract. NASA released a Request for Proposals on Jan. 15 and the space agency is scheduled to select a contractor at the end of September, with work to begin in January 2011. "Boeing's experience with the International Space Station program allows us to provide an offer that supports NASA's priorities for safety, mission success and innovation," said Brad Cothran, Boeing's capture team lead for the contract. "The ISS is an important international asset as both a research laboratory and test bed for living and working in space," he said.

STORY BY ADAM MORGAN/BOEING. PHOTO: NASA