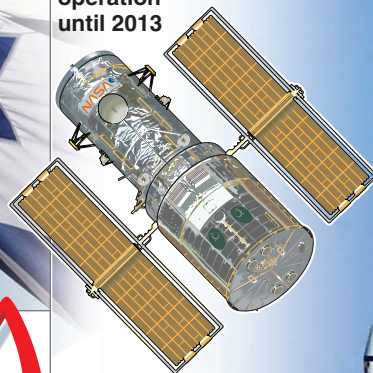


Looking ahead 2008

► **SEPTEMBER** Seven NASA astronauts onboard the space shuttle *Atlantis* launch the fifth and final servicing mission to *Hubble*, designed to keep the space telescope in operation until 2013



► **OCTOBER** China plans to conduct its first space walk when it launches its third manned rocket, *Shenzhou VII*, with three astronauts on board

► **NOVEMBER** Will the U.S. get its first woman or its first black President? *Hillary Clinton* and *Barack Obama* are among the frontrunners in America's 55th quadrennial presidential elections

► **MAY** Israel celebrates the 60th anniversary of its founding in 1948, after thousands of years of Jewish dispersal. By contrast, Palestinians mourn the *nakba* (catastrophe)

► **JUNE** Switzerland and Austria host the **Euro 2008** football tournament

EURO2008

► **JULY** Japan hosts the G8 summit of leading industrialised nations in Toyako, Hokkaido

► **AUGUST** Beijing hosts the *Olympic Games*, providing an opportunity for China to highlight its emergence as a world power



Beijing 2008



► **DECEMBER** The target date set at the *Annapolis* peace talks of November 2007 for Israel and Palestine to reach an agreement on Middle East peace



► **JANUARY** Landmark elections in Pakistan are due to take place less than two weeks after the assassination of opposition leader *Benazir Bhutto*. Rival opposition leader *Nawaz Sharif* says he will boycott the elections

Slovenia assumes the presidency of the European Union

► **FEBRUARY** Hollywood hands out its coveted Oscars to the film world's finest, for the 80th time



"*Super-Duper Tuesday*" sees some 20 U.S. states hold primaries to choose presidential nominees

► **MARCH** *Vladimir Putin's* preferred successor, *Dmitry Medvedev*, will almost certainly clinch victory in Russia's presidential poll



President *Robert Mugabe*, whose policies have led to Zimbabwe's critical economic crisis, seeks a further term in office

► **APRIL** People around the world will mark the 40th anniversary of the assassination of U.S. civil rights leader *Martin Luther King*

