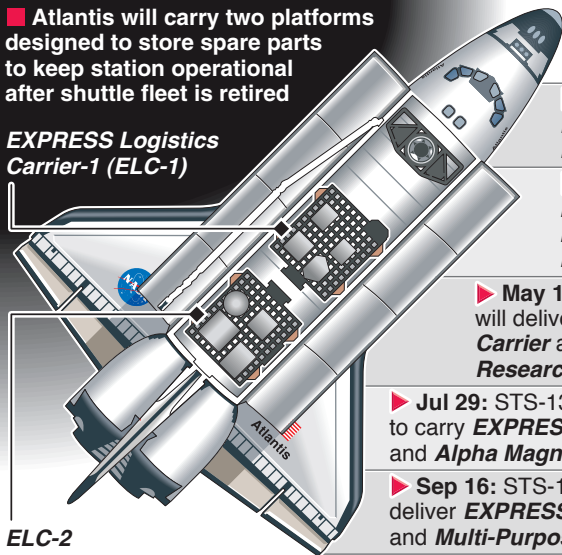


Shuttle Atlantis returns to space station duty

After a break of nearly two years, space shuttle Atlantis will return to the International Space Station (ISS) with its STS-129 mission. Just five more shuttle launches remain before the planned retirement of the fleet

■ Atlantis will carry two platforms designed to store spare parts to keep station operational after shuttle fleet is retired

EXPRESS Logistics Carrier-1 (ELC-1)



ELC-2

FINAL SHUTTLE MISSIONS TO ISS
Target dates, 2010

► **Feb 4:** STS-130 – *Endeavour* to deliver *Node 3* and *Cupola*

► **Mar 18:** STS-131 – *Discovery* will carry *Multi-Purpose Logistics Module*

► **May 14:** STS-132 – *Atlantis* will deliver *Integrated Cargo Carrier* and Russian *Mini Research Module*

► **Jul 29:** STS-134 – *Endeavour* to carry *EXPRESS Logistics Carrier-3* and *Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer*

► **Sep 16:** STS-133 – *Discovery* will deliver *EXPRESS Logistics Carrier-4* and *Multi-Purpose Logistics Module*

■ Platforms will be mounted on space station's backbone, or truss

