Soyuz crew is safe following a launch anomaly...

Another major hurricane seen from space...

And testing continues for the rocket engine that will power us to deep space... a few

of the stories to tell you about – This Week at NASA!

Shortly after the Oct. 11 launch of a Soyuz spacecraft carrying our Nick Hague and Russia's Alexei Ovchinin to the International Space Station, there was an anomaly with the booster, and the launch ascent was aborted, resulting in a ballistic landing of the spacecraft in Kazakhstan.

Hague and Ovchinin were recovered safely from the capsule and both are in good condition.

The crew onboard the space station, including our Serena Auñón-Chancellor, were informed of the launch abort and are continuing with normal station operations.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Space Agency, Roscosmos
has formed a commission to assess the root

cause of the failure – an investigation
that our administrator, Jim Bridenstine says,

NASA will fully support.

“We want to make sure that when we do launch
again – and I believe we will launch again

on a Soyuz rocket – that we understand what
this anomaly was, that we resolve it and that
together we can launch again and have success.”

NASA and the International Space Station partners
also will review upcoming operational schedules,

including the plan for two spacewalks targeted
later in October.

Jim Morhard has been confirmed by the U.S.
Senate to be our 14th Deputy Administrator.

Morhard has previously served as the Senate’s
Deputy Sergeant at Arms and as Staff Director

of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Administrator Bridenstine welcomed him aboard,
noting in a statement that Morhard’s legislative

and managerial talents will serve the agency
Cameras outside the space station captured views of Hurricane Michael on Oct. 9 as it moved northwest through the Gulf of Mexico that day as a category 3 storm.

The following day, Michael nearly reached category 5 status – as it made landfall near Mexico Beach, in the Florida panhandle, with winds of about 155 miles per hour.

On Oct. 11, our Stennis Space Center in Mississippi tested an RS-25 engine, with a ‘hot fire’ of 500 seconds – that’s over 8 minutes.

The test – the fourth in a series that will extend into next year – featured an acceptance test of an RS-25 engine controller, for use on a future flight of our new Space Launch System or SLS rocket.

SLS will use four RS-25s to launch astronauts in our Orion spacecraft to deep space destinations, including to the vicinity of the Moon and Mars.
Our Hubble Space Telescope remains in safe mode following the recent failure of one of the telescope’s three gyroscopes that was actively being used to point and steady Hubble.

Safe mode puts the telescope into a stable configuration until ground control can correct the issue and return the mission to normal operation.

Hubble’s instruments still are fully operational and are expected to produce excellent science for years to come.

During an Oct. 11 event at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Mint unveiled the winning design for a series of commemorative coins to recognize the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission’s historic landing on the Moon.

July 20, 2019 will mark fifty years since astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin descended to the lunar surface, while crewmate Michael Collins orbited above.

Then Armstrong, followed by Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on a celestial
body other than Earth.

That’s what’s up this week @NASA ...

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