



Red Bull Air Race Pilots to Attend STS-130 Space Shuttle Launch

British Red Bull Air Race Pilot Nigel Lamb has been invited by his fellow competitor, Michael Goulian (US) to attend the launch of the Space Shuttle Endeavour as it lifts off on one of its final missions to the international Space Station (ISS) on February 7th.

Michael is attending the launch as a guest of Mission Specialist Nick Patrick who is making his 2nd trip to space aboard Endeavour. Nick was a pilot at Michael's flying school, Executive Flyers Aviation, in the 1990's and extended the invitation to Nigel when he learnt about his passion and curiosity for all things 'Space' related.

While arguably Mike and Nigel have one of the most sort after jobs competing in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship, both race pilots would jump at the chance to experience the feeling of a completely gravity free environment and have great respect for the Endeavour Crew that will be spending 13 days in space completing their mission.

The Mission

This launch will not only mark the 130th space shuttle flight, but it is also the 32nd of 36 missions to the ISS. The STS-130 crew will be delivering a third module known as the "Tranquillity Node" that will connect to the space station. It will also be carrying a cupola to be used as a control room for robotics.

Inspiring

Michael, who has already witnessed 2 shuttle launches, said, "Other than the birth of my daughter, a shuttle launch is the most awe inspiring and spiritually uplifting event I have ever witnessed. I have always been in awe of our space program and the astronauts who capture our imagination."

Nigel Lamb comments; 'In the early days of the programme, I watched a launch from the public viewing area about 5 miles away. Even at that distance, I was blown away by the phenomenal power of the Shuttle and man's ability to create such a machine. Having the opportunity to watch from Banana Creek and to meet some of the people involved will be an incredible experience.'

The Endeavour is targeted to launch at 4:39am EST dependant on weather conditions.

Ends:

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Endeavour shuttle launch - www.nasa.gov

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