



HAVING COMPLETED ITS 43-DAY STAY AFTER SUCCESSFULLY DOCKING TO DELIVER 5475 POUNDS OF FOOD, COMPUTERS, SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AND RELATED ITEMS, JAPAN'S H-2 TRANSFER VEHICLE (HTV) LEFT THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS) ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30; THE BUS-SIZED CRAFT, NOW CARRYING 1600 POUNDS OF TRASH FROM THE ISS, IS DUE TO BURN UP IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

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The HTV spacecraft, built by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), originally arrived at the ISS on September 17. Its cargo included two new experiments to be installed on the station: NASA's two part HREP instrument, focusing on 1) coastal features of the ocean and 2) the ionosphere and thermosphere, and JAXA's SMILES, a 1047lb. instrument monitoring levels of trace gases in the ozone layer.

Scientists engineered the HTV to perform a series of three maneuver orbits to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere on Sunday, November 1, where most of it would burn up. Any surviving pieces would fall into the Atlantic Ocean, halfway between New Zealand and South America.

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