

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center**  
2101 NASA Road 1  
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



April 14, 2006

EA-06-015

Reply to Attn of:

Professor Samuel Ting  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Laboratory for Nuclear Science  
Cambridge, MS 02139

Dear Professor Ting:

NASA is currently implementing a policy to terminate the Space Shuttle Program by 2010. Given the current condition of the shuttle program, the amount of remaining flights is uncertain and will be very limited. Indeed, AMS is not on the current ISS flight manifest. However, I want to assure you that we have been instructed to continue to build the necessary hardware to integrate the AMS-02 payload. Johnson Space Center (JSC) AMS Project Office has been given direction from the NASA Administrator to continue our planning and development work within the existing AMS NASA budget.

In August 2005, the AMS-02 flight Vacuum Case was delivered to the JSC. On March 3, 2006, the completed Structural Test Article Vacuum Case was delivered to JSC. The Vacuum Case Test Fixture has been completed. The Payload Attach System, our structural interface to the ISS, as well as all of the other ISS integration hardware is complete and ready for integration. The Primary Support Stand and the flight Unique Support Structure are well on there way to be completed. In fact, we expect to complete the USS in June 2006. The JSC AMS project activities remain a significant component of the overall center manufacturing efforts. As you can tell from this list, NASA JSC is proceeding quickly towards full payload assembly later this year at CERN. We look forward to seeing this payload fully assembled and ready for launch to ISS.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Porter".

Steve Porter

cc: JSC/EA2/T. Martin  
B2SC/P. Nemeth  
B2SC/C. Tutt  
B2SC/M. Fohey

MIT/B. Hungerford  
MIT/M. Capell  
INFN/R. Battiston  
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