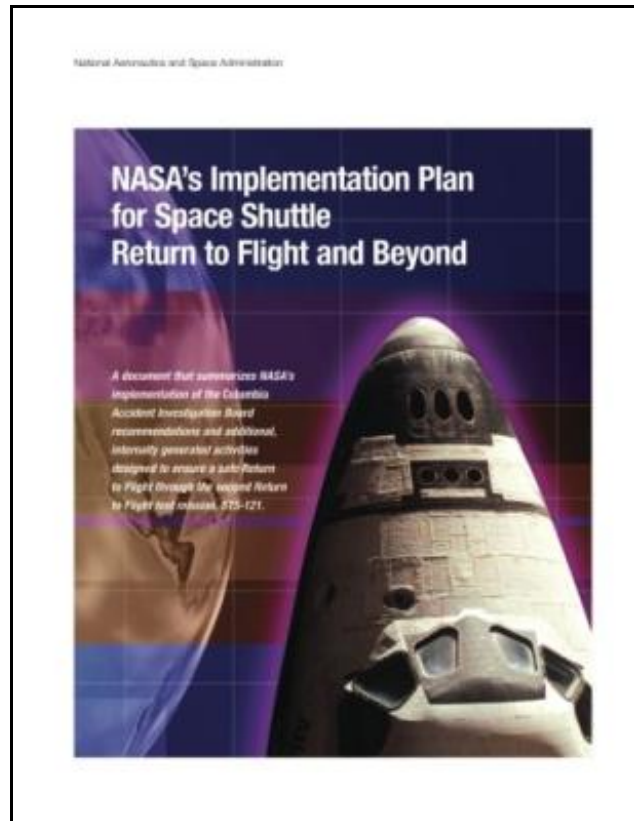


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(Prof. Maya Hand)

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Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 302 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.7in. The safe landing of STS-121 on July 17, 2006, marked the successful completion of NASAs second Return to Flight (RTF) Mission. This Final Edition of NASAs Implementation Plan for Space Shuttle Return to Flight and Beyond provides an update to NASAs responses to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board recommendations and observations, as well as updates to the Space Shuttle Program (SSP) raising the bar initiatives through the two RTF missions (STS-114 and STS-121). Also included is an update to RTF-related costs through the end of Fiscal Year 2006. This Final Edition provides technical updates that reflect the completion and post-flight analysis of STS-121. These include NASAs improvements to ground and on-board ascent and on-orbit imagery capabilities, changes to the External Tank designed to reduce the ascent debris risk, and the growing maturity of NASAs on-orbit thermal protection system (TPS) repair capabilities. These updates describe how swapping out the first STS-114 External Tank, ET-120, led to an opportunity to analyze External Tank foam from a tank that had gone through a complete cryogenic loading cycle. This analysis led to a better understanding of the root cause mechanisms behind foam loss, and specifically resulted in the removal of the protuberance air load (PAL) ramps from the External Tank for STS-121 and all subsequent flights. STS-114 also provided valuable experience and lessons learned for preventing the loose tile gap fillers seen on that flight. Following implementation of improved procedures to validate or replace gap fillers, there were no mission impacts from protruding gap fillers on STS-121. Several new capabilities were also first demonstrated on STS-121. New cameras with improved viewing angles were installed on the Solid Rocket Boosters, providing engineers with better coverage of...



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