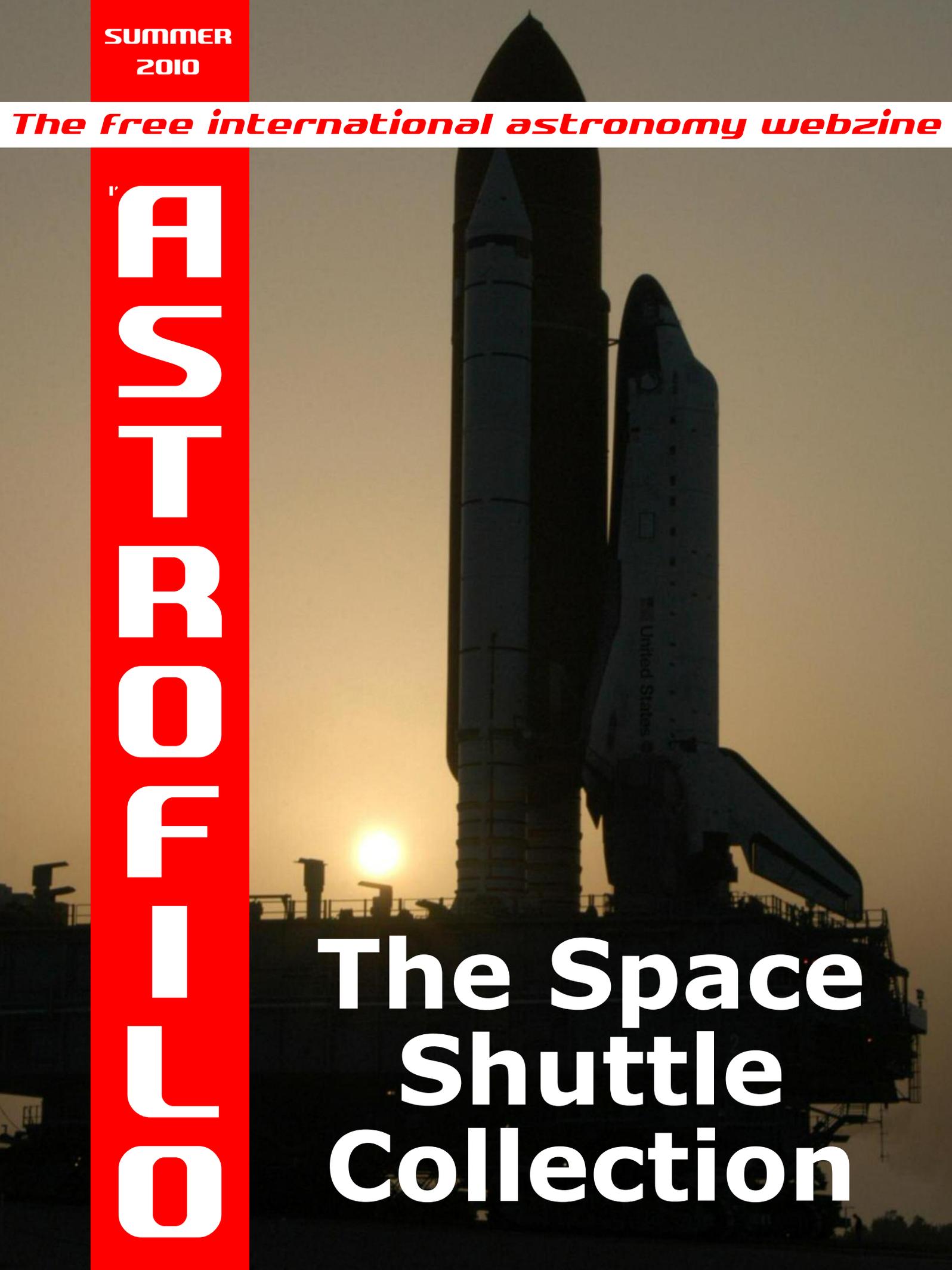


SUMMER
2010

The free international astronomy webzine

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A photograph of the Space Shuttle Columbia on the launch pad, silhouetted against a bright sunset. The shuttle is oriented vertically, and the orbiter is attached to the side of the external tank and solid rocket boosters. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The launch pad structure is visible in the foreground and background.

The Space Shuttle Collection



ON THE COVER

The rising Sun provides the backdrop as Shuttle Atlantis makes its slow journey to launch pad 39B of the Kennedy Space Center, from where it will begin mission STS-115. [NASA/George Shelton]

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Space Shuttle Collection

Foreword

With the retirement of all the Space Shuttles fast approaching (with only 2 or 3 remaining missions) it seems appropriate to dedicate a special issue to this extraordinary vehicle, that has overcome innumerable problems to revolutionise space flight. It has facilitated tremendous development in the fields of astrophysics and a whole range of other technical and scientific areas.

We have chosen to present this as a photo album with brief captions that appear when the cursor is placed over the NASA icons on each page.

To compile the Space Shuttle Collection we have searched over 30,000 images in the NASA archives for photos that are particularly significant, but we also include some images purely because they are spectacular.

The chronological order of the missions is almost always followed, within the limitations of page layout, and page after page you will be able to follow the most important steps in the thirty year history of the Space Shuttle.

Michele Ferrara

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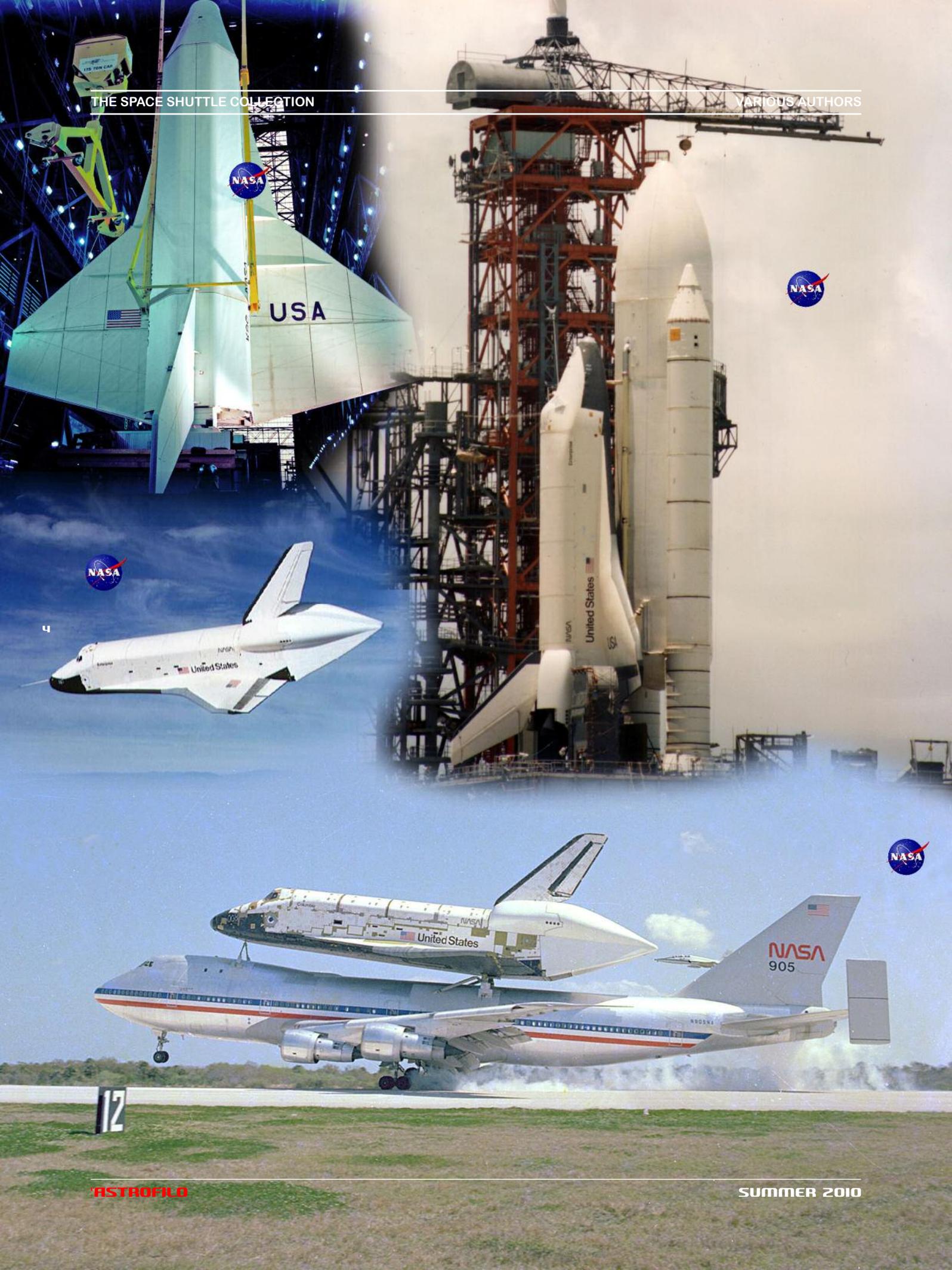
The Space Shuttle Collection

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A pictorial journey through the long history of the first reusable space craft, that more than any other, has contributed to the development of modern astrophysics, thanks to its ability to take into orbit large space telescopes and also maintain them. It has also been fundamental in the construction of the international space station.

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All the images in this issue are from the archives of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. For each we provide a caption that includes the date of the photograph. To see the captions just move your mouse over the NASA logos on each page. These images, along with tens of thousands more, can be found directly in the online archives at the following addresses:
<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/images/shuttle/index.html>
and <http://mediaarchive.ksc.nasa.gov:80/index.cfm>.





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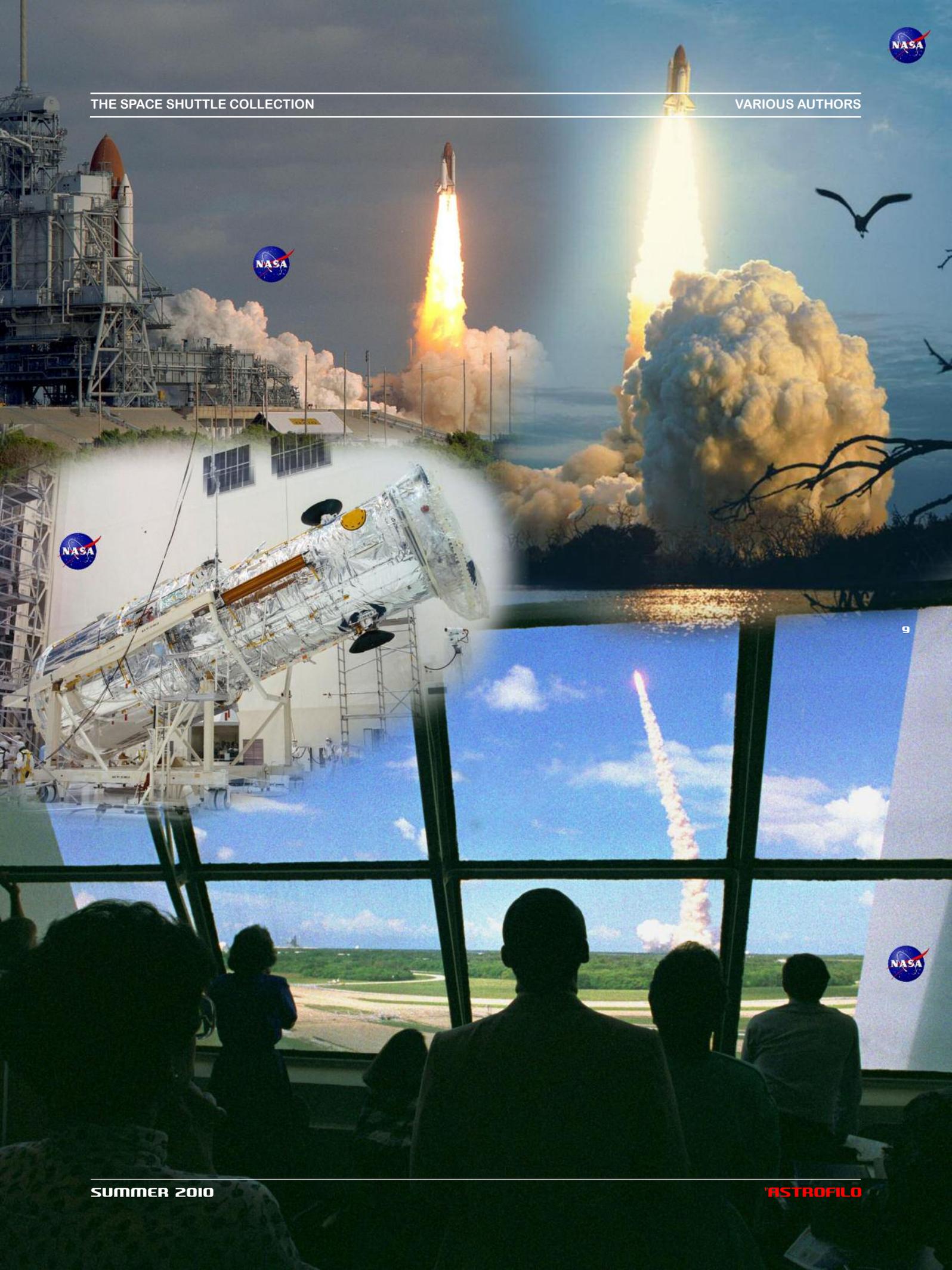
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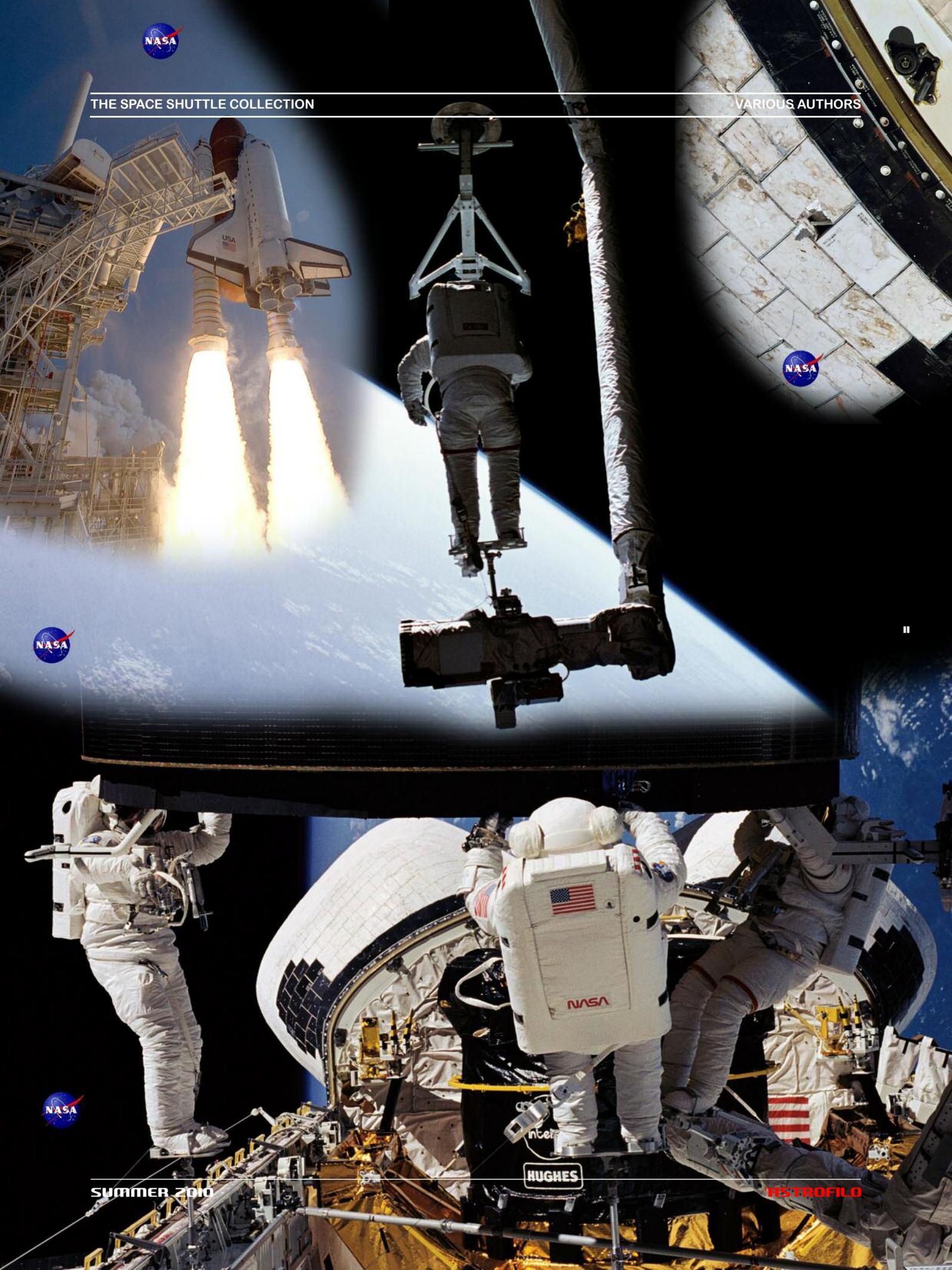
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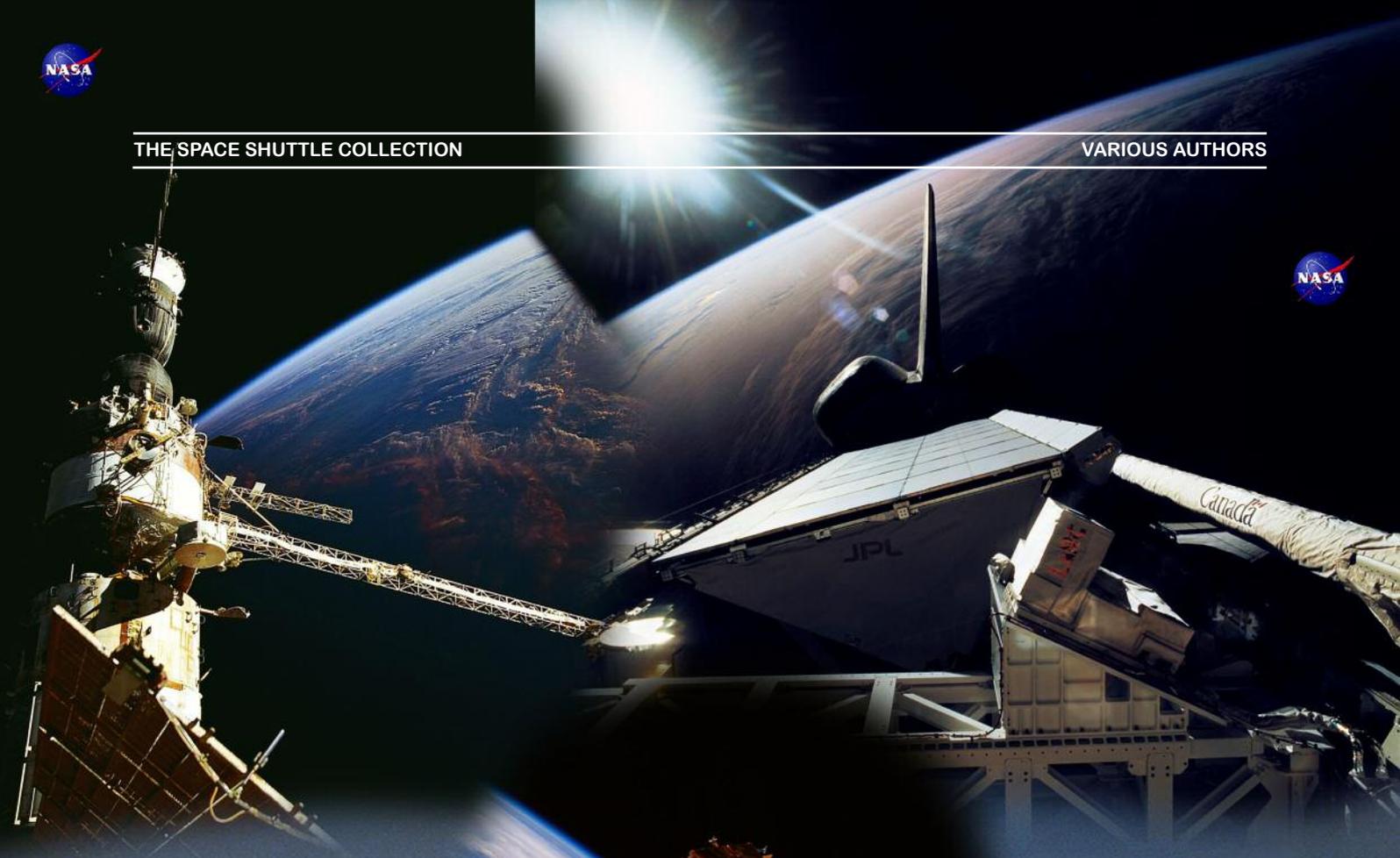
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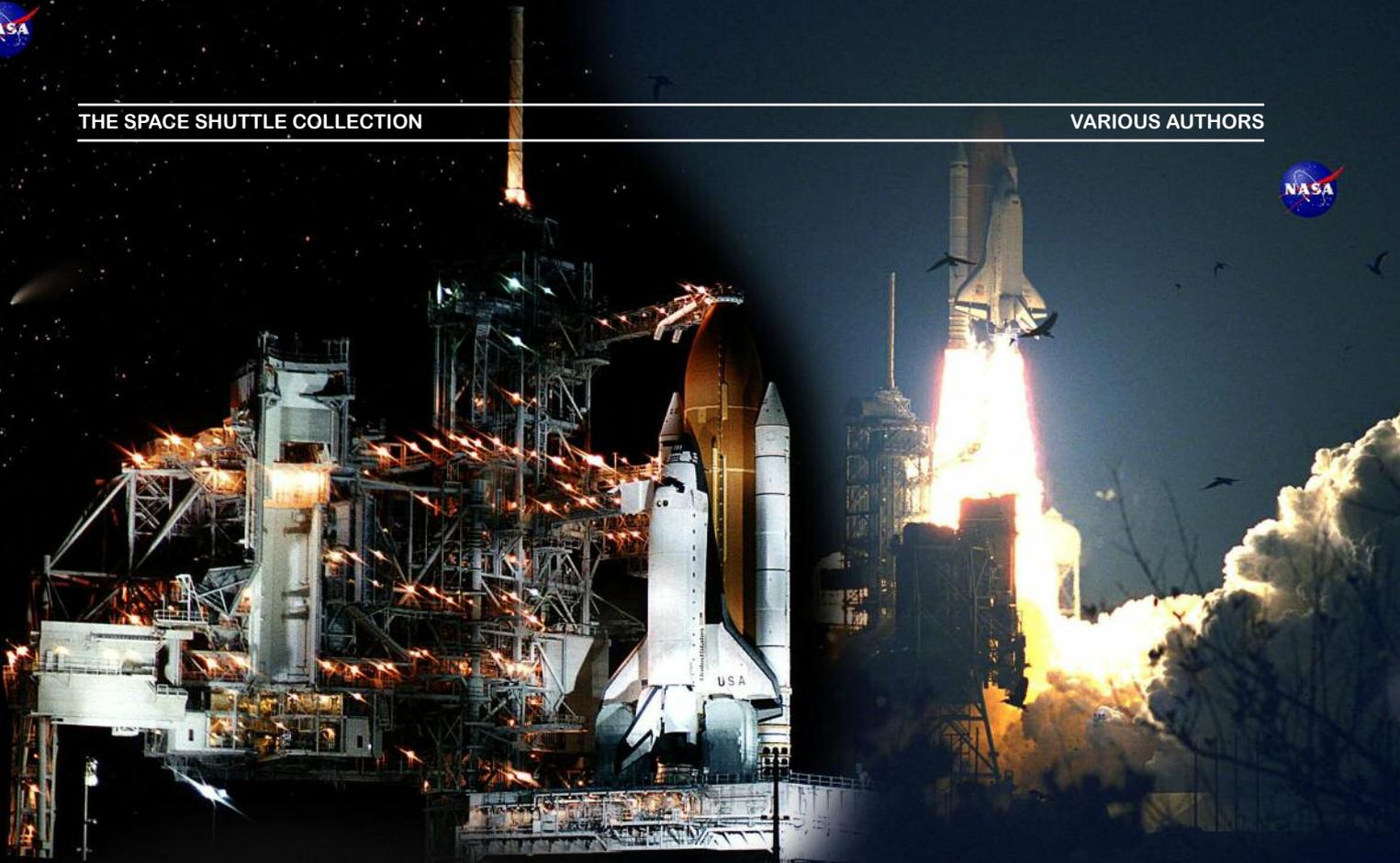
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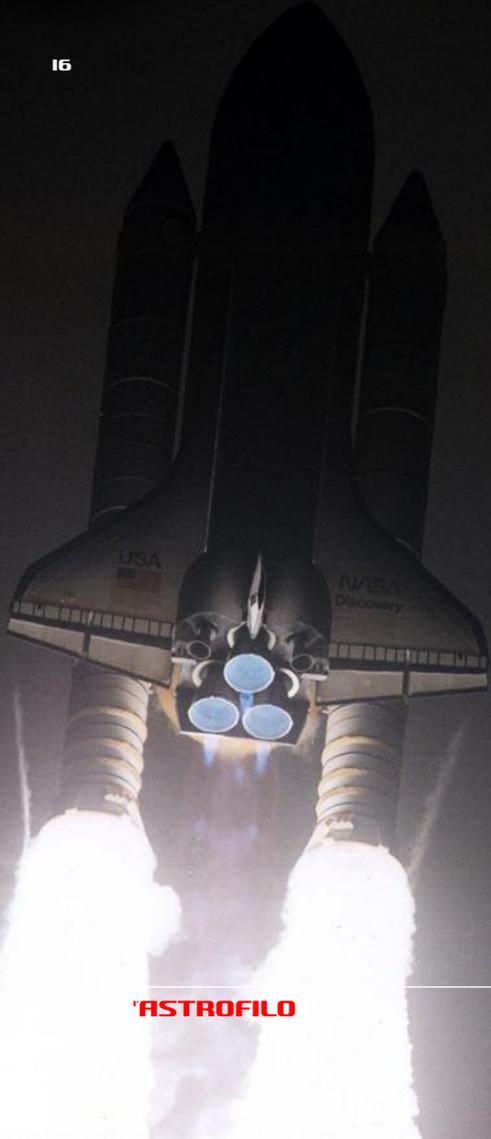


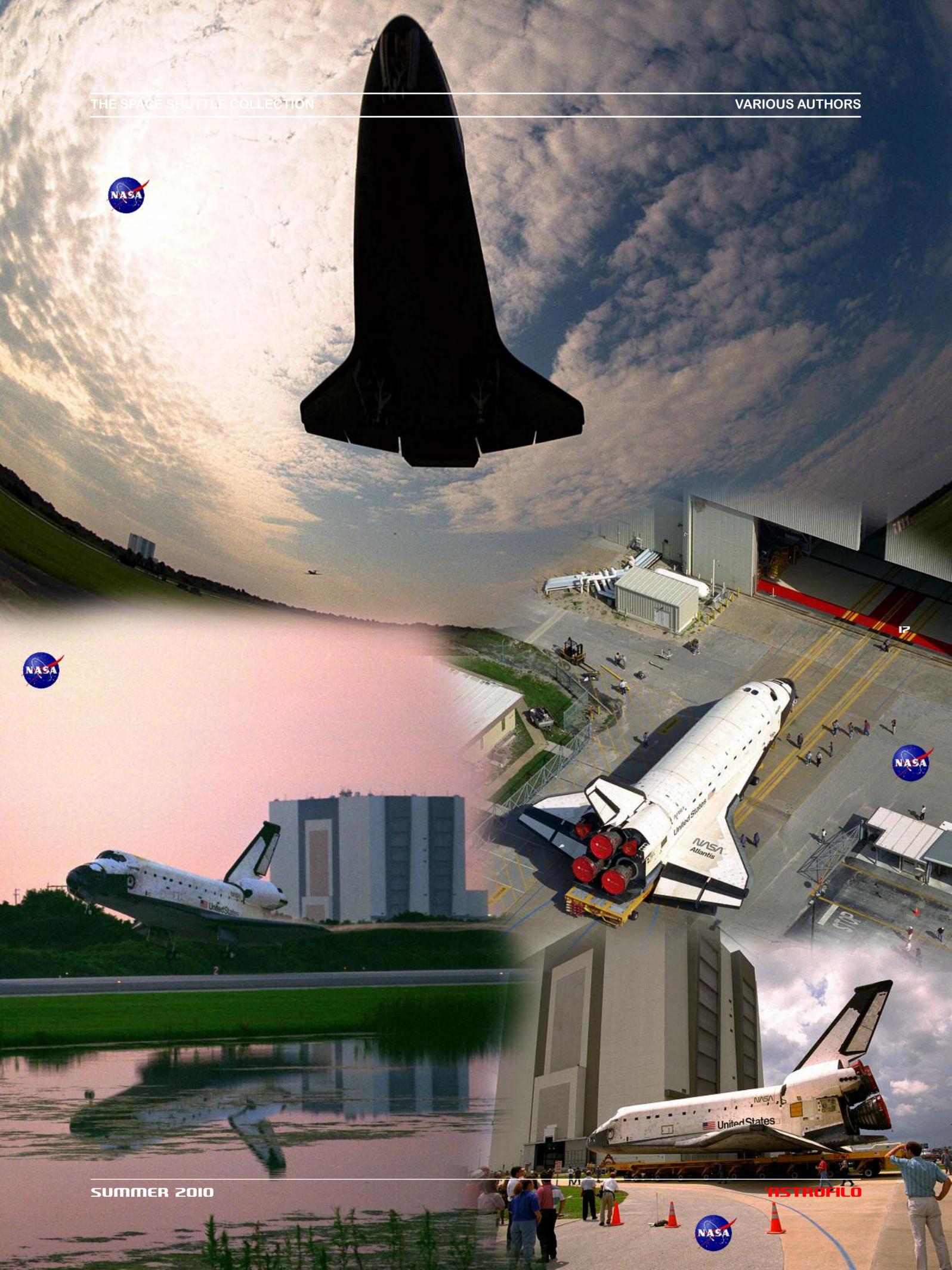
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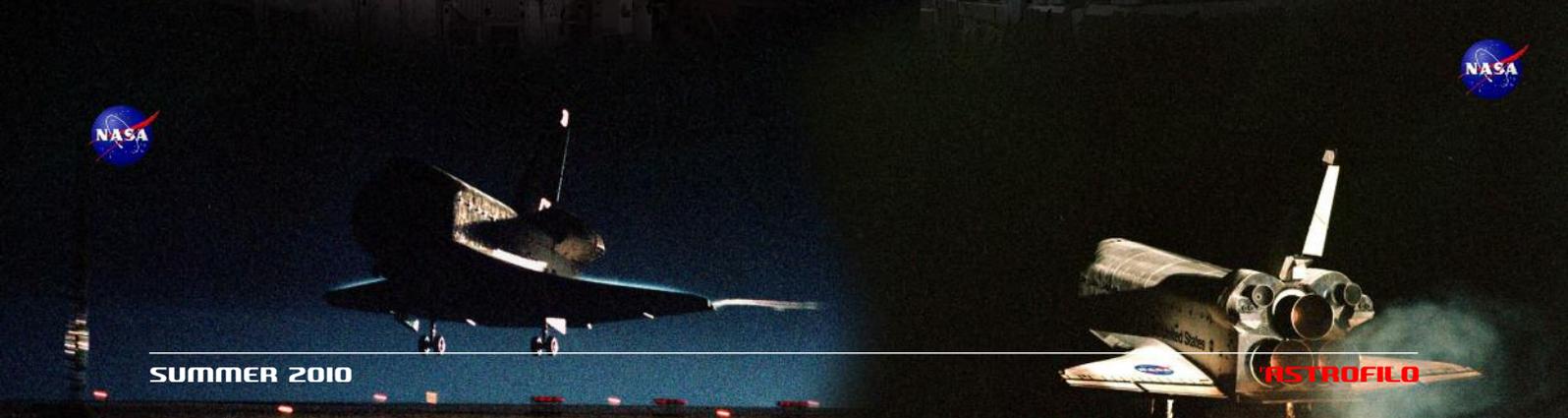
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Unity – International Space Station Begins

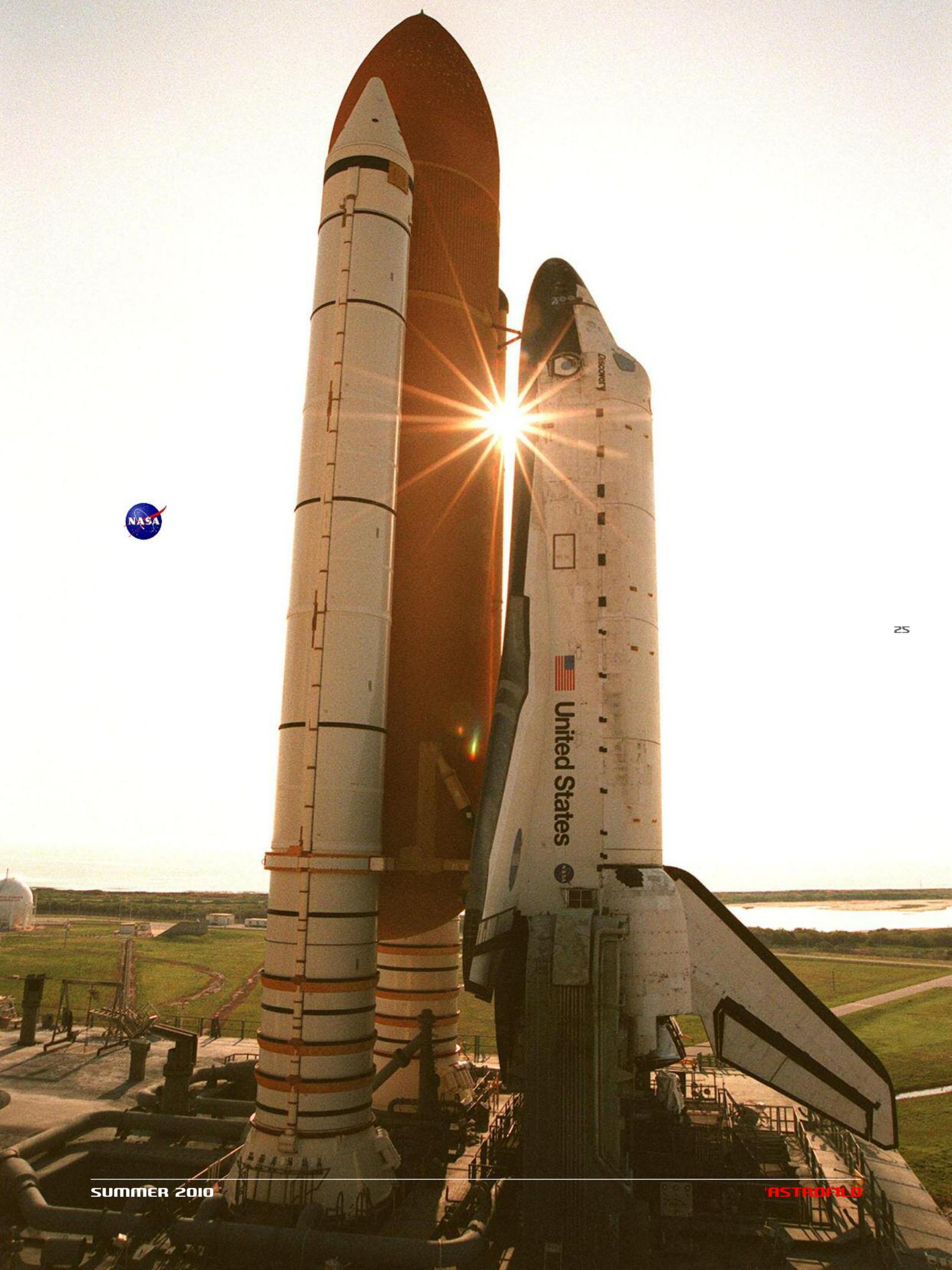
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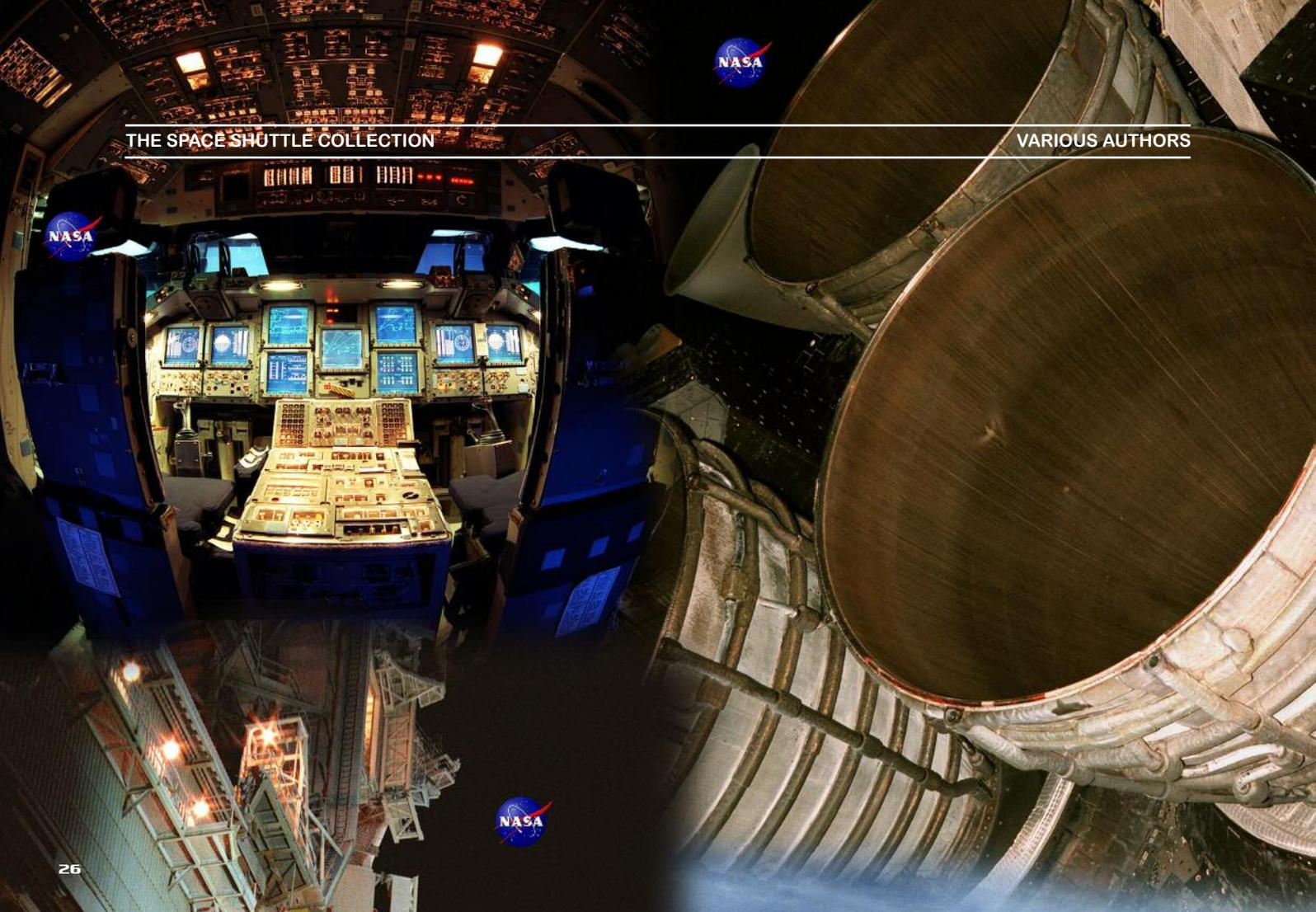


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United States





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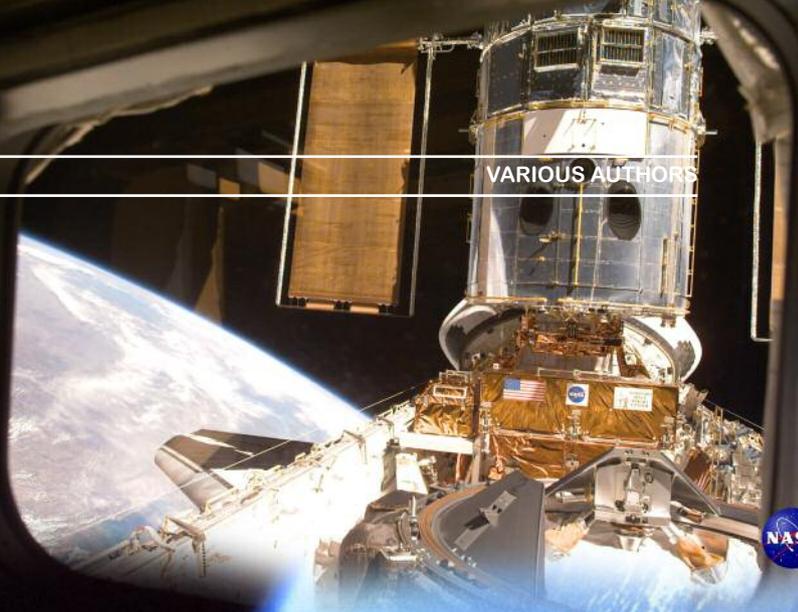
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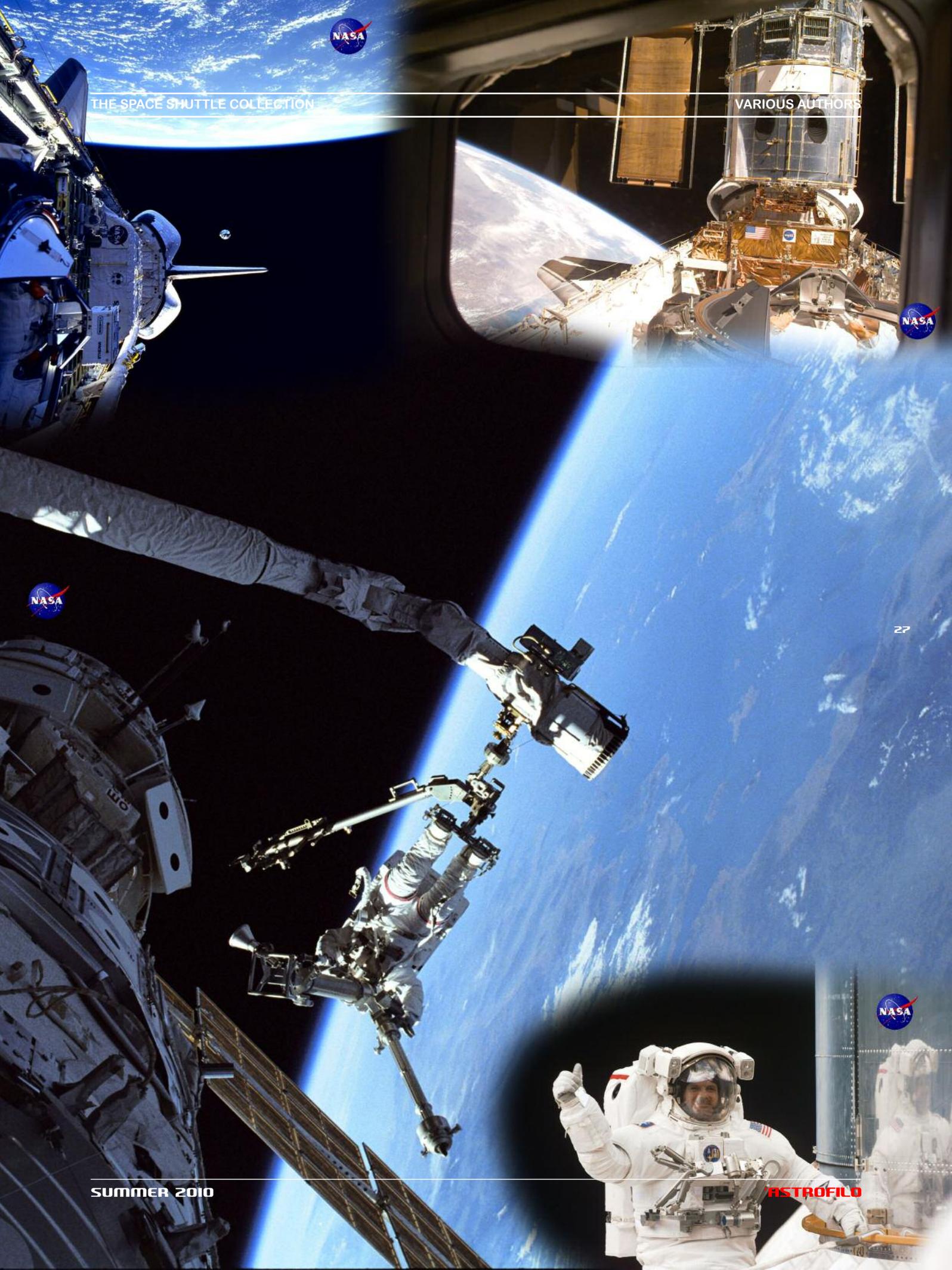


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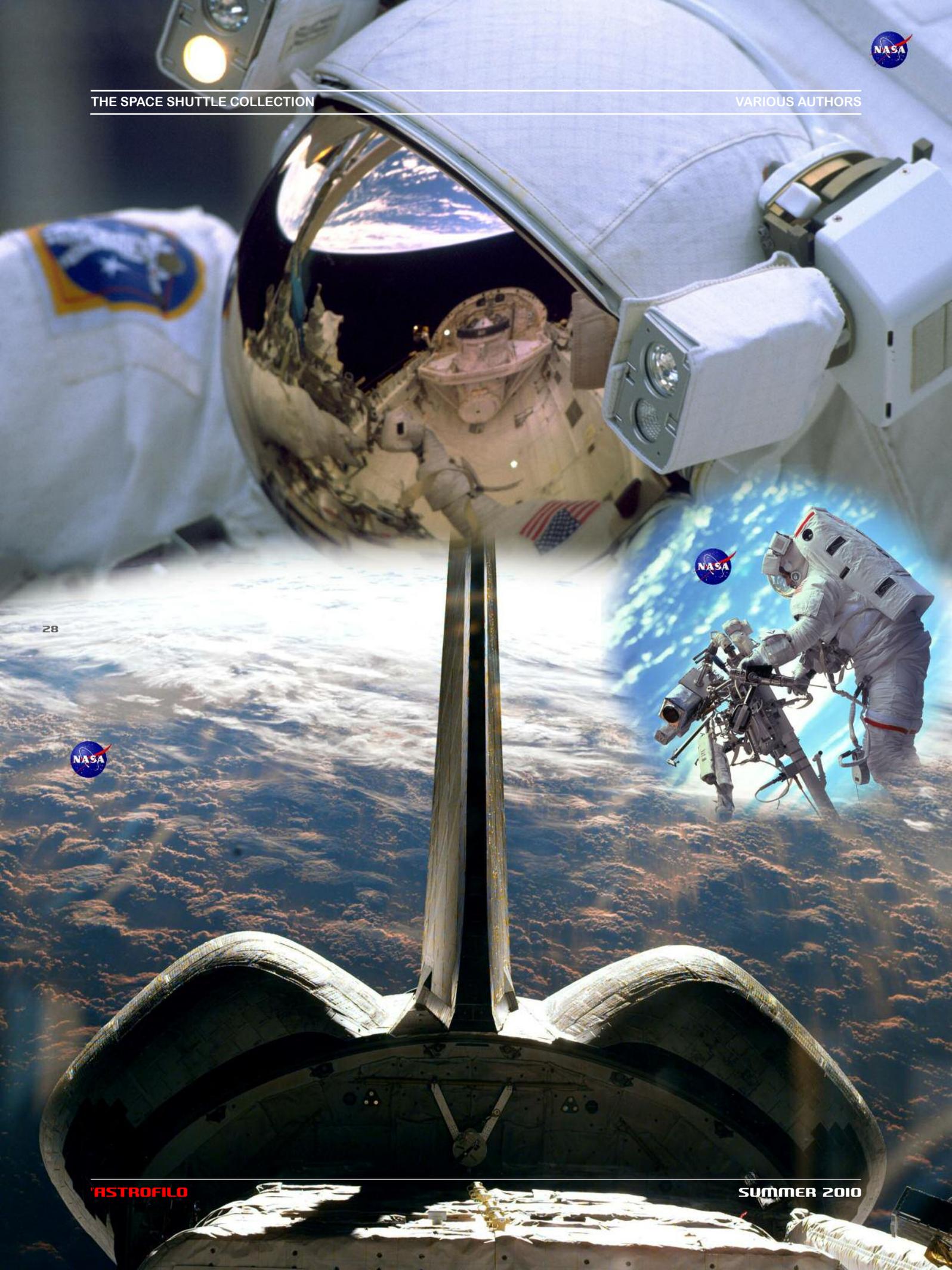
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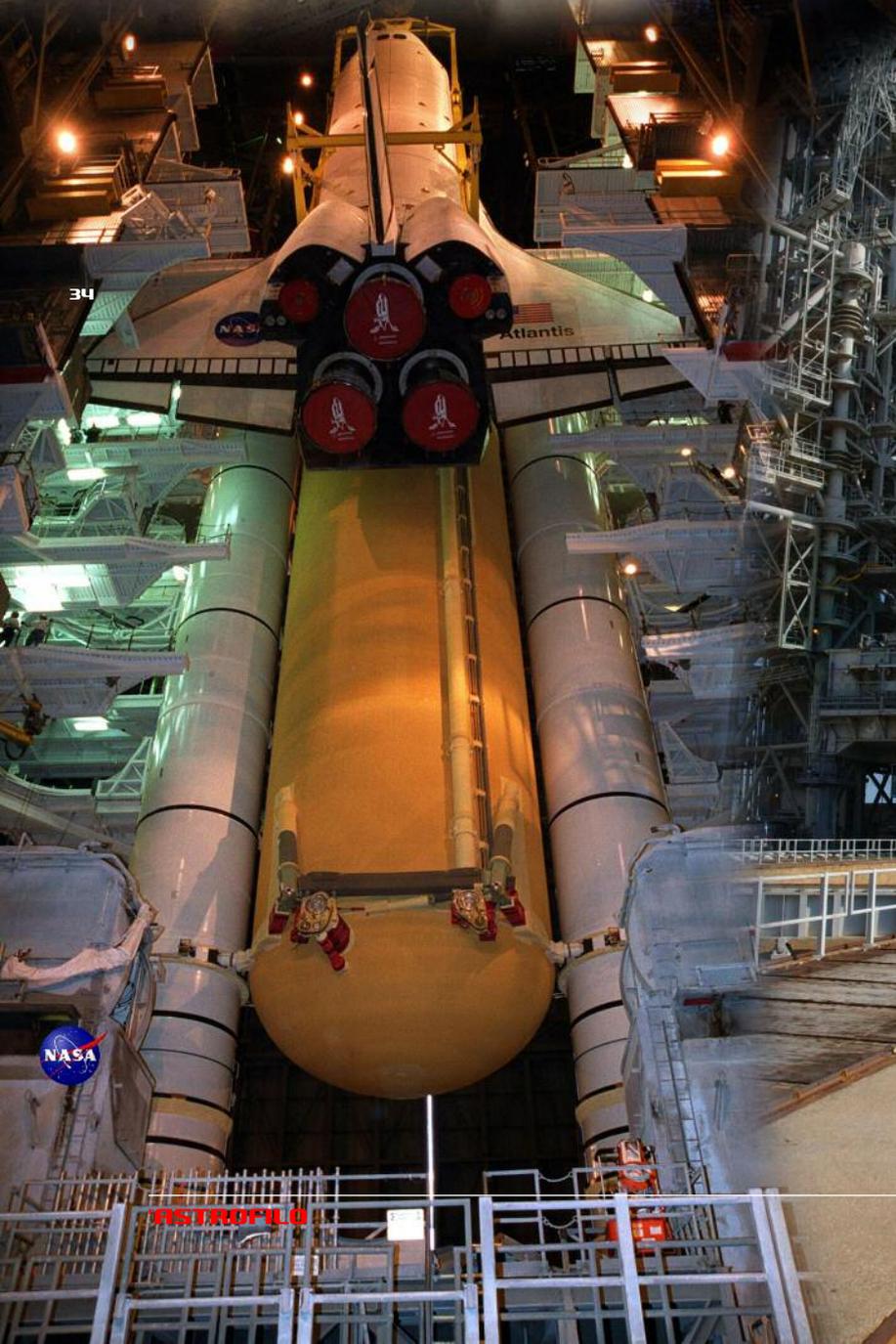
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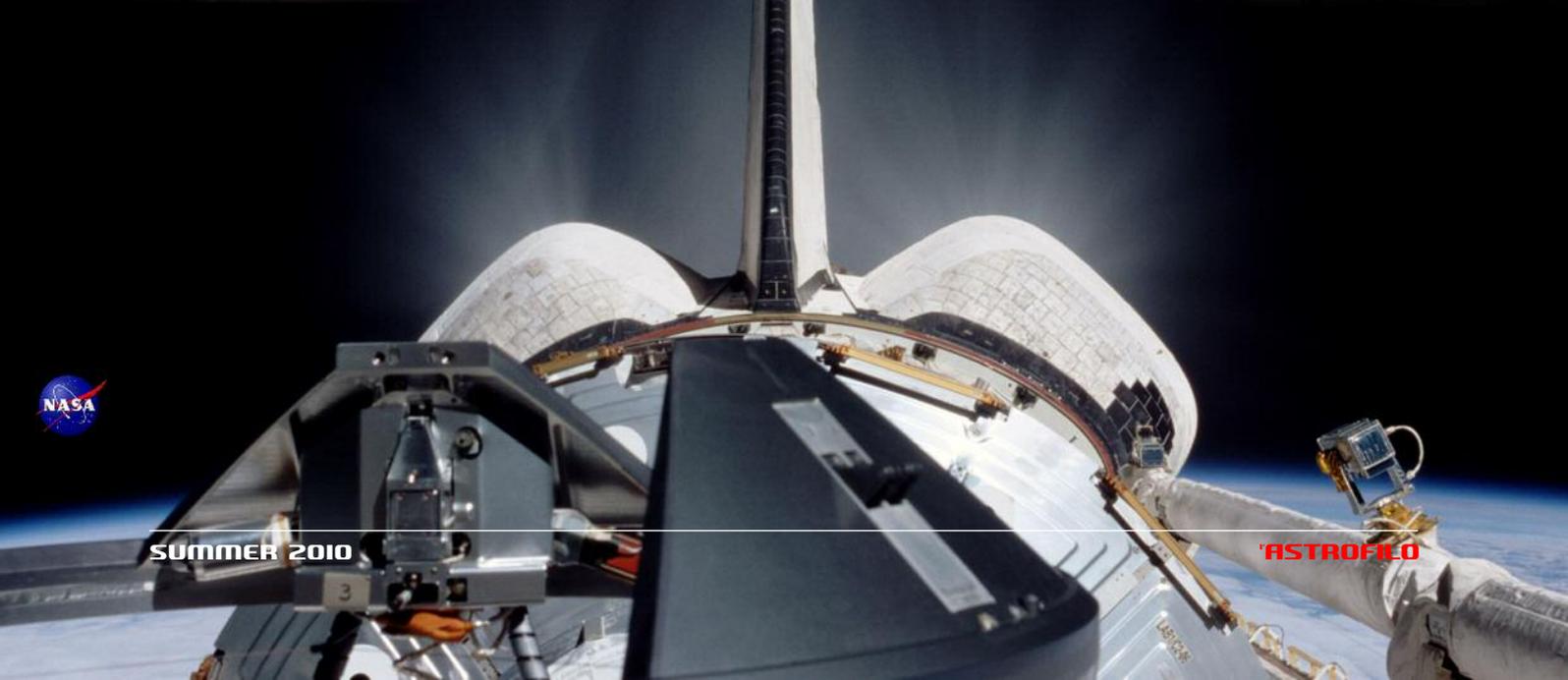


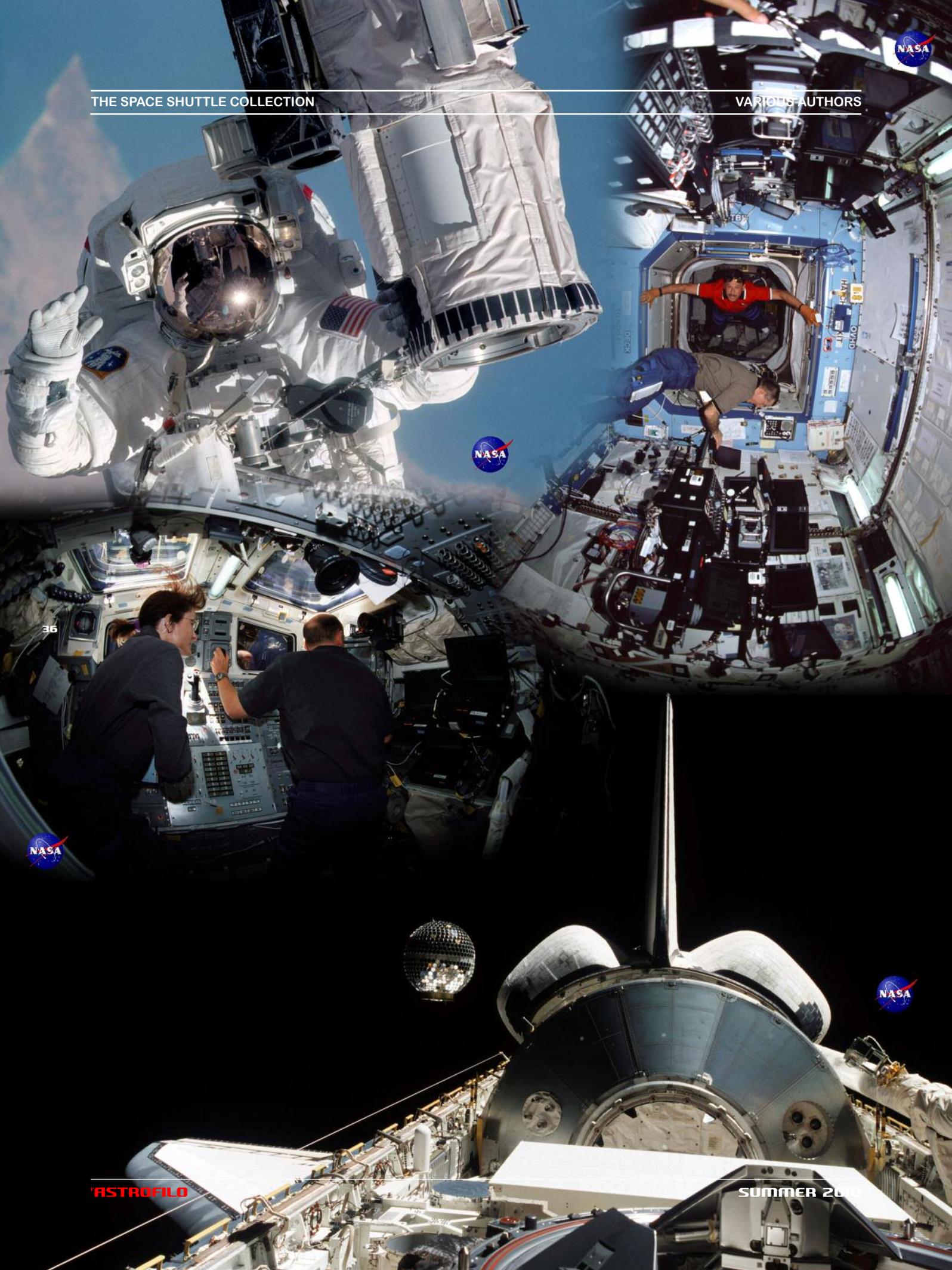
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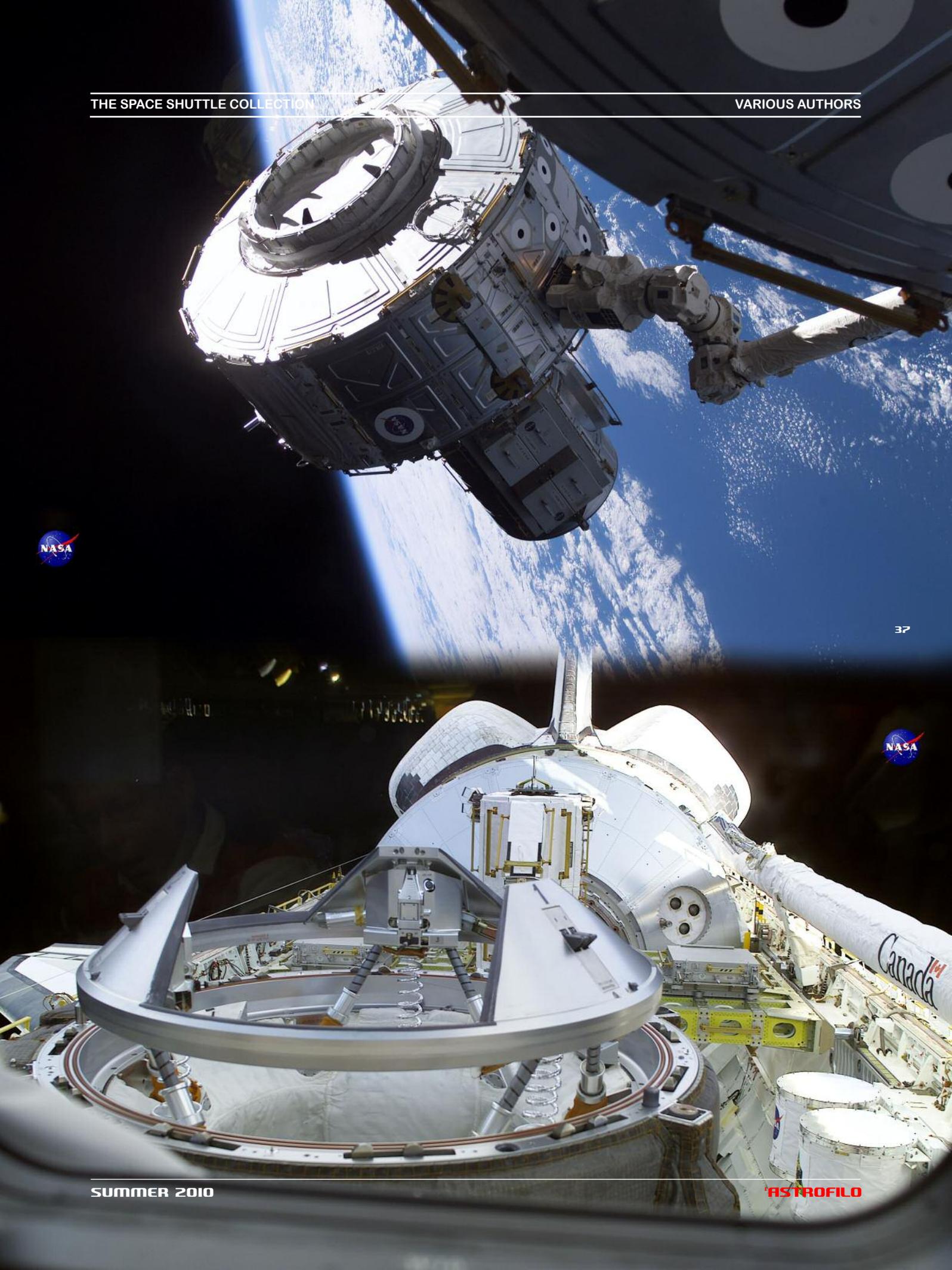




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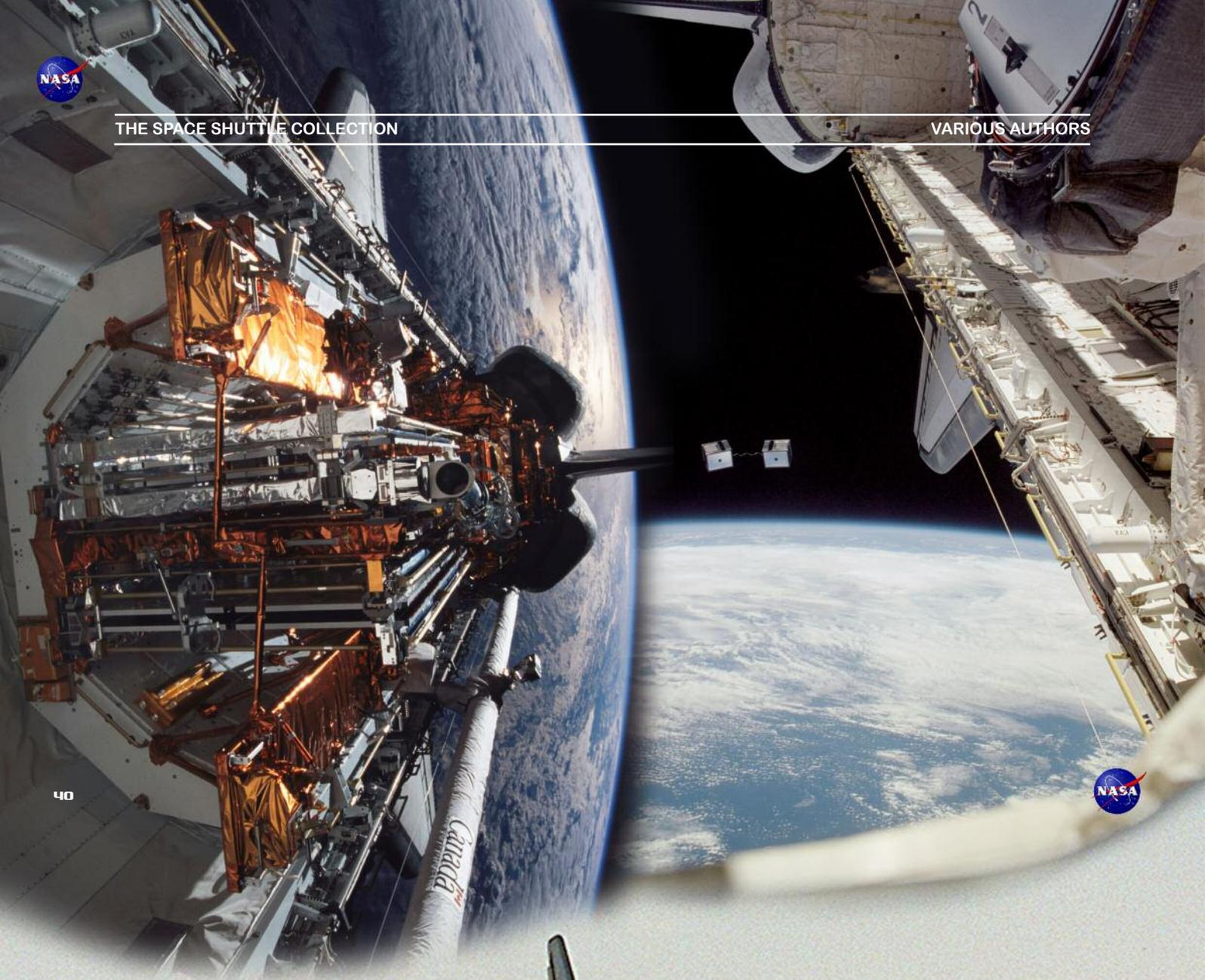
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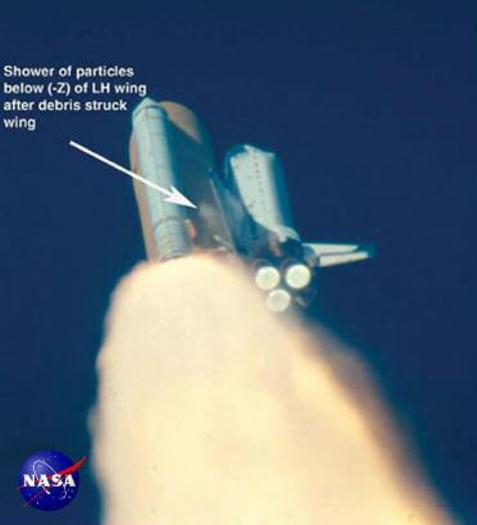


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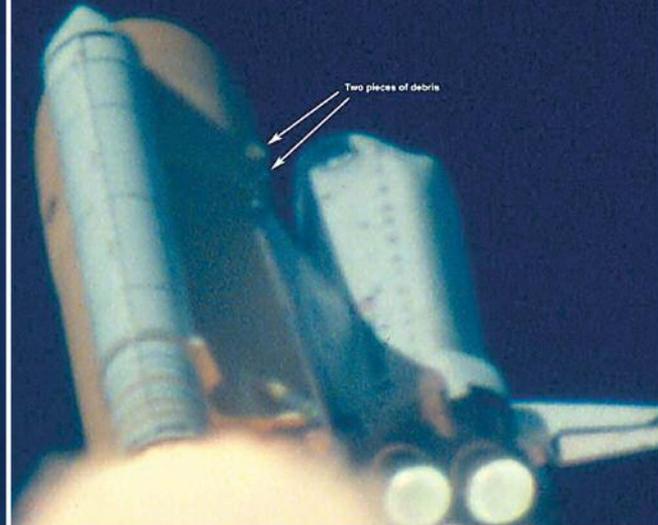




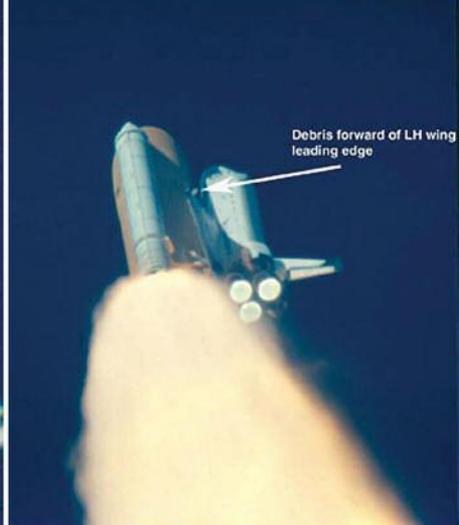
Shower of particles below (-Z) of LH wing after debris struck wing



Two pieces of debris



Debris forward of LH wing leading edge



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GET IT Done! LEAVE IT TO THE CRAFT

We're Behind You, Discovery!

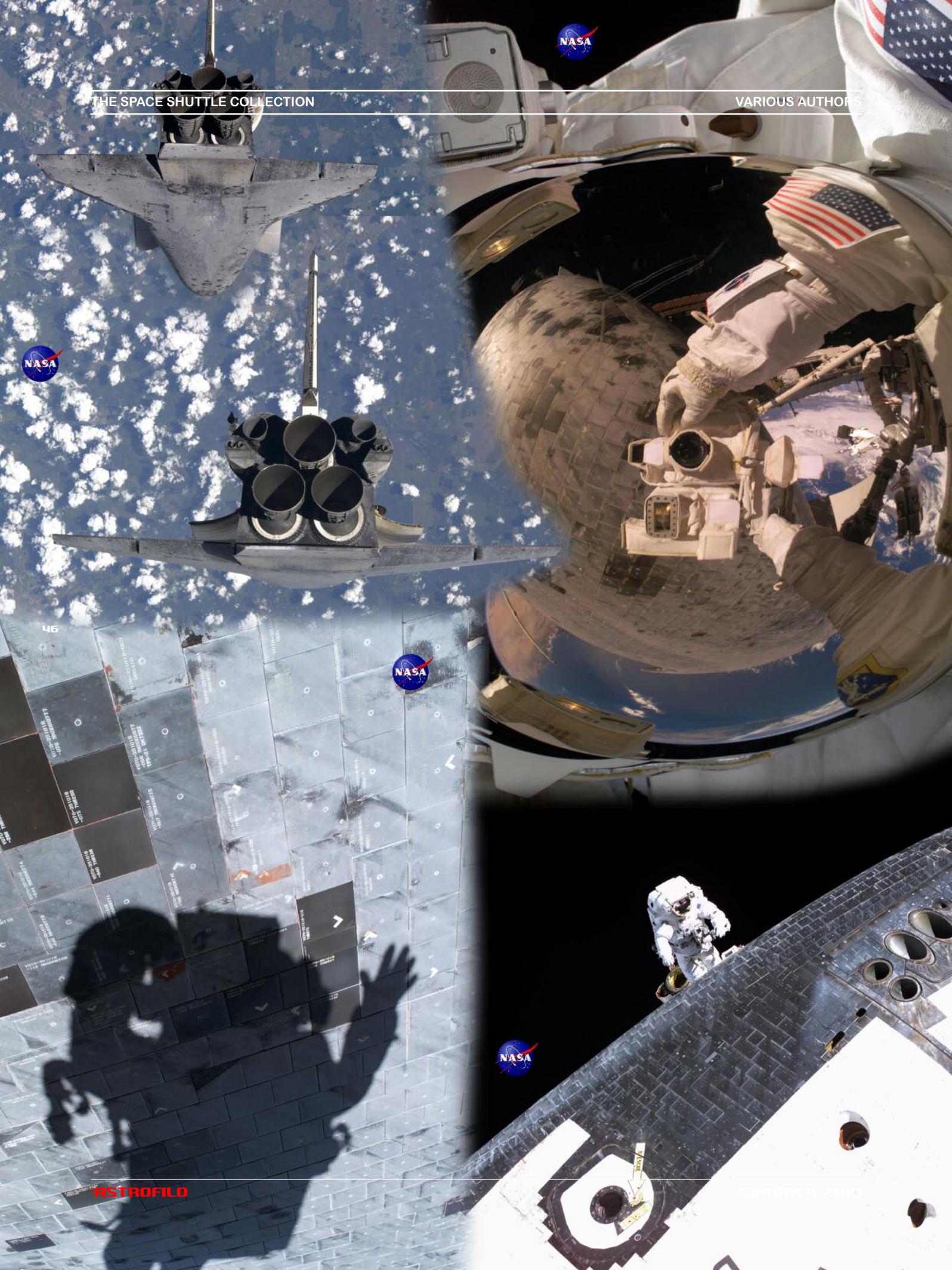
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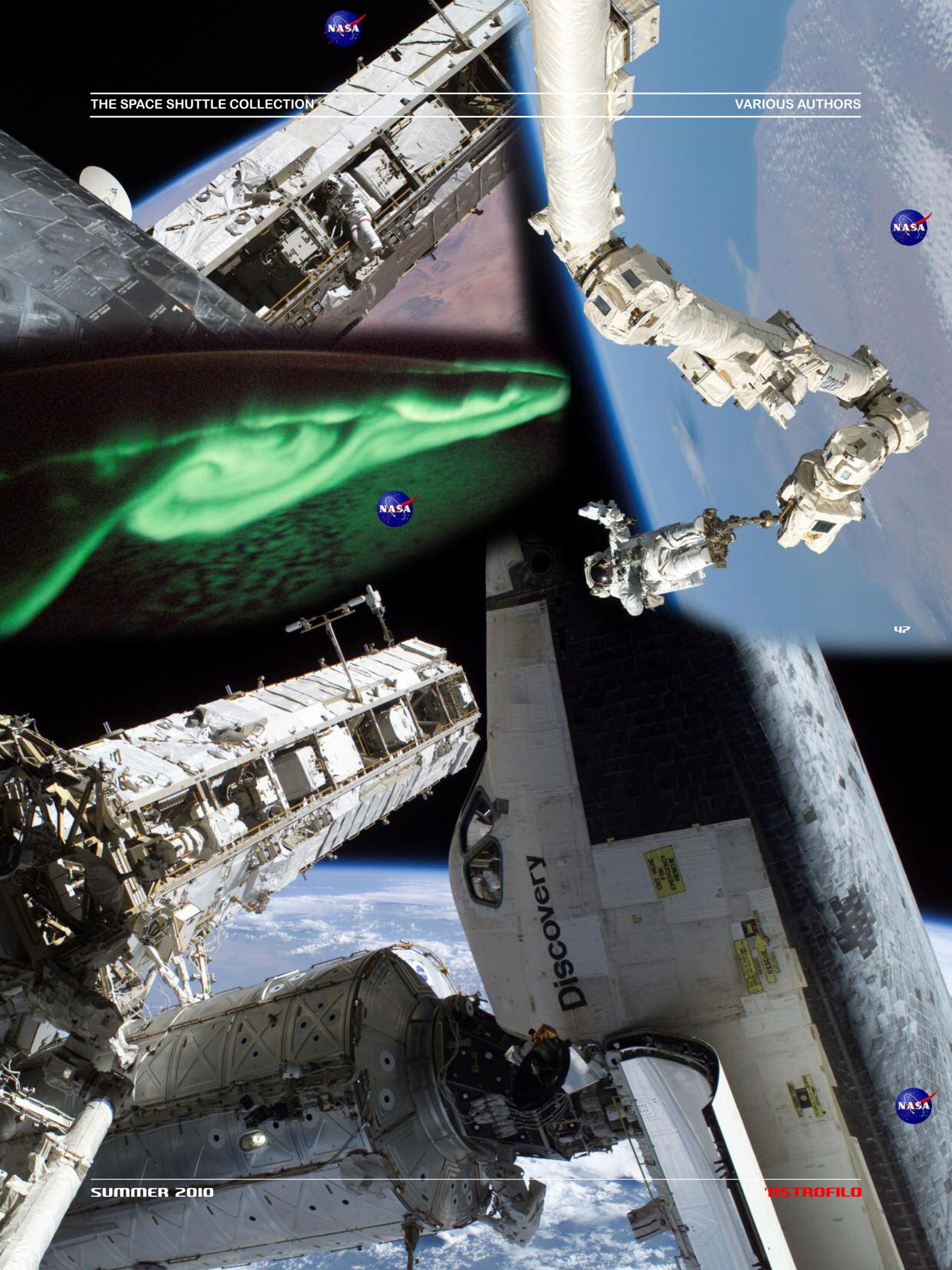


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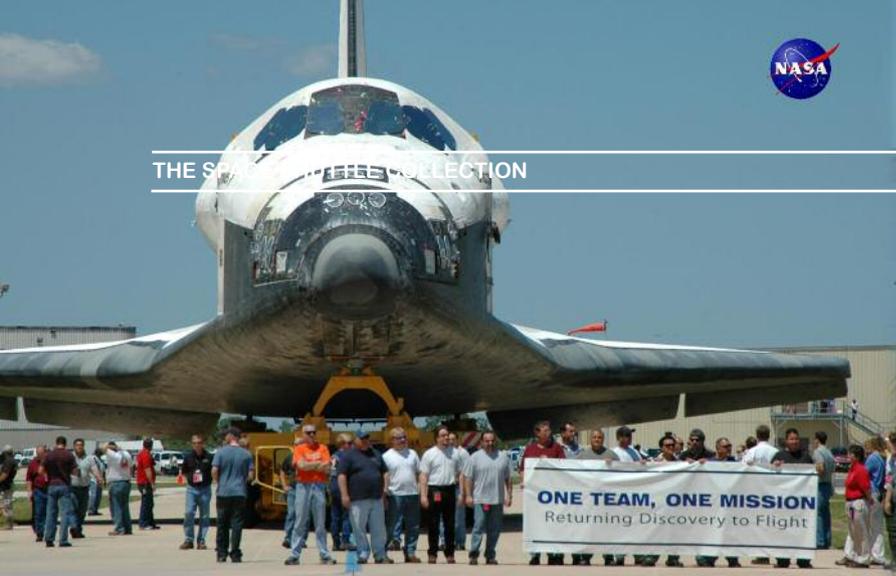
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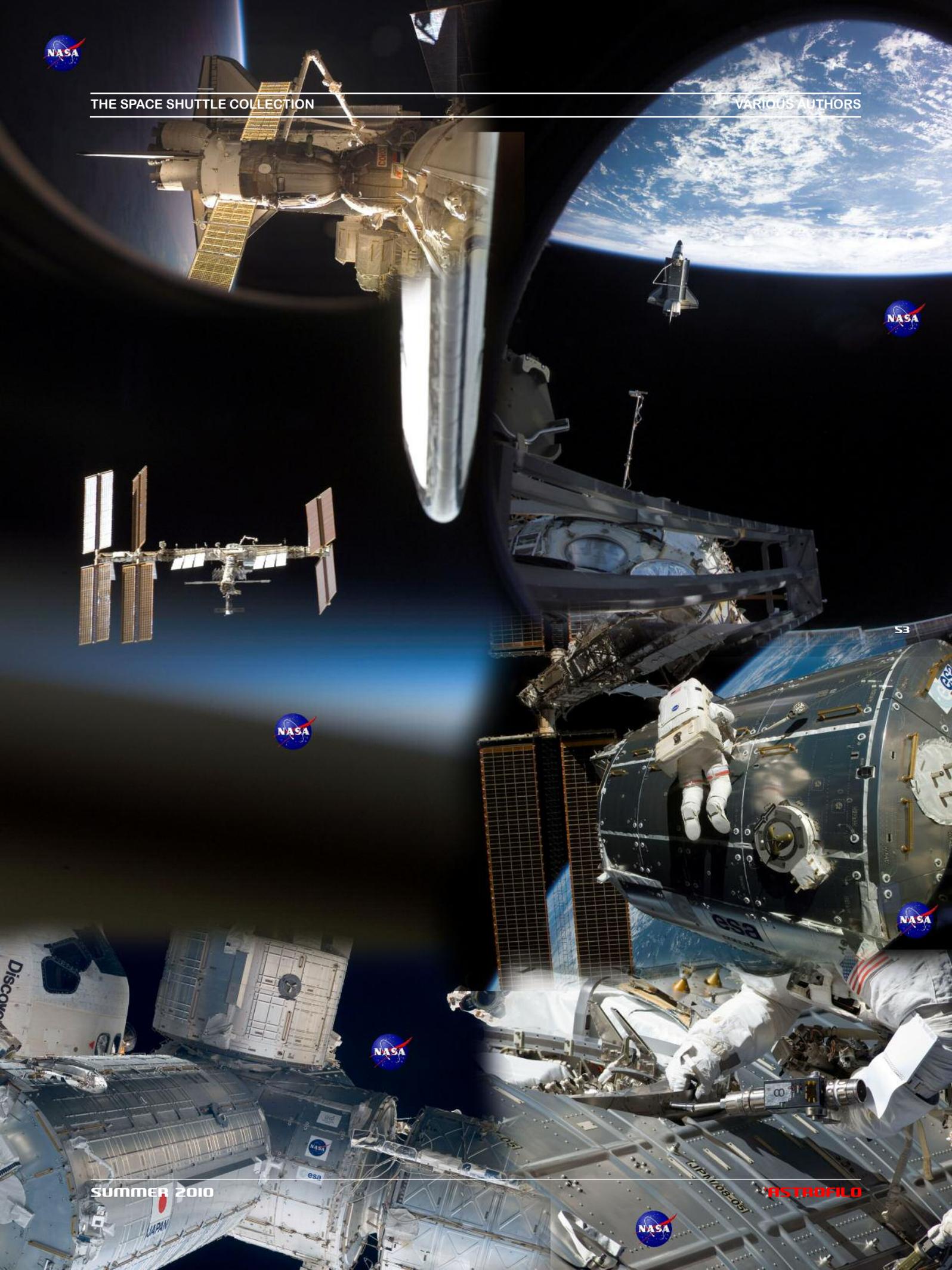






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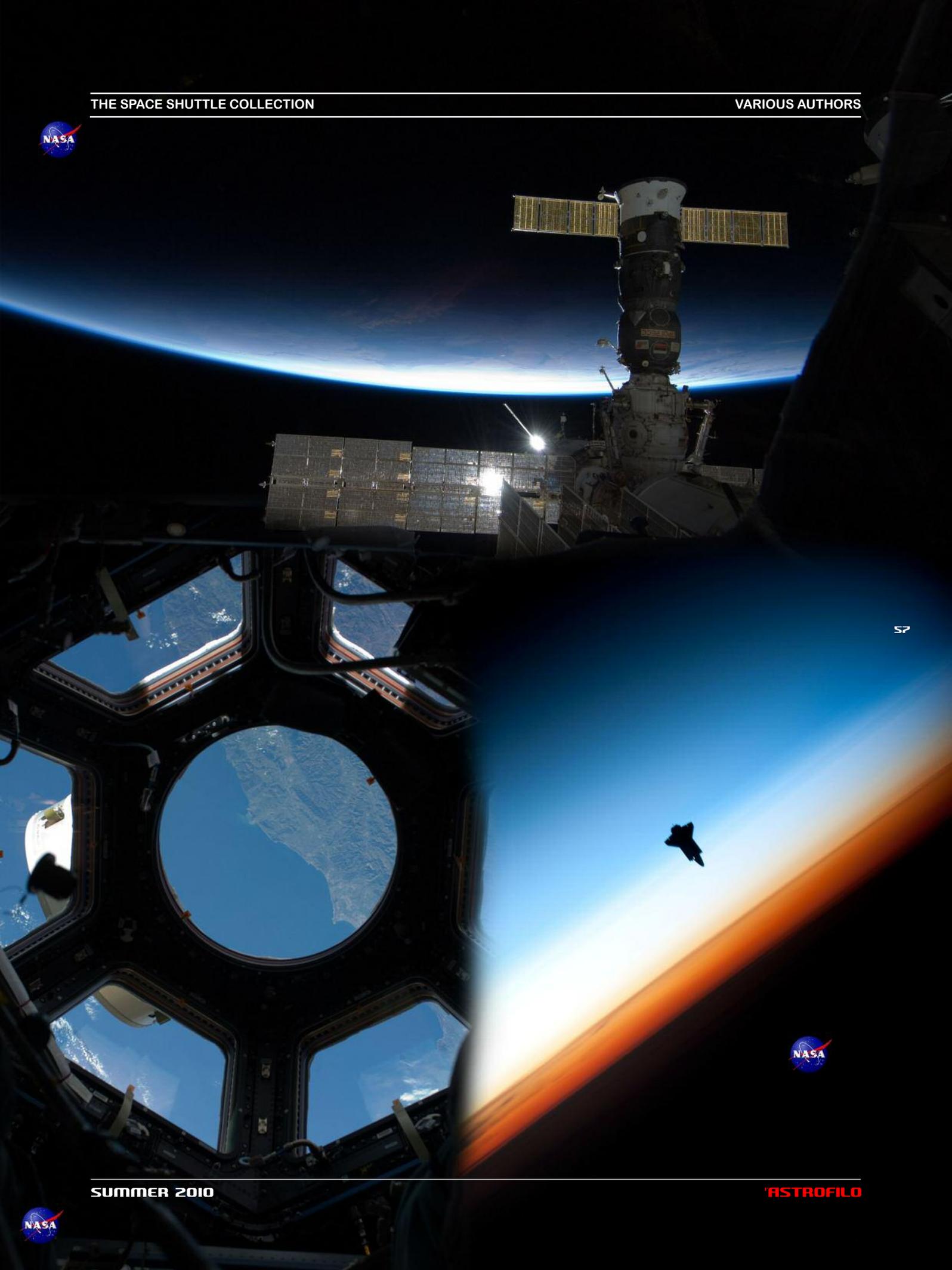
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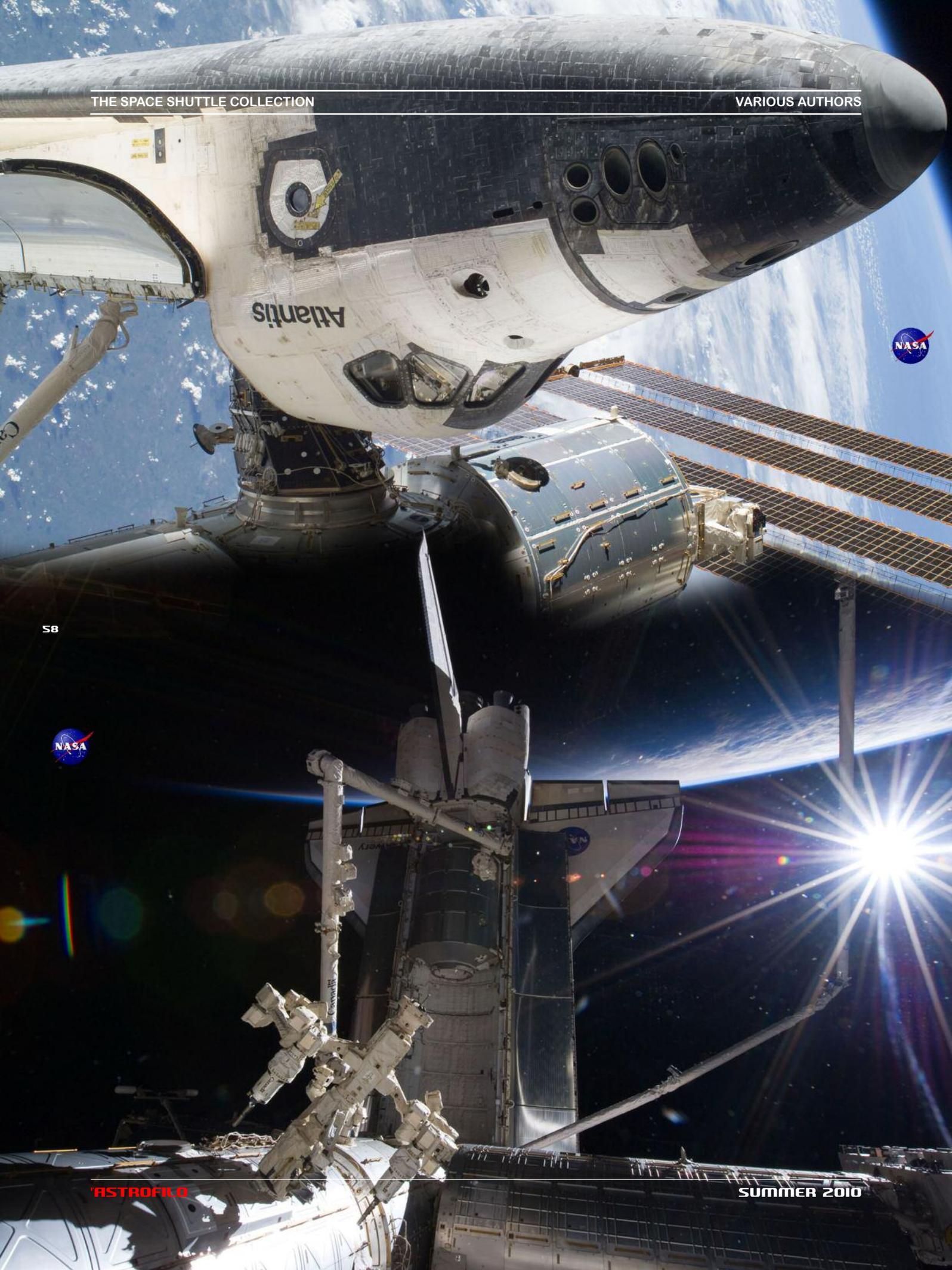
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