here at Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California the insight launch team is moving into high gear it's time to encapsulate the spacecraft so we're at the face of the mission where we're encapsulating with the launch vehicle and the ula team with their fairings now come in and they take the two halves of the pharynx and they make a clamshell around the spacecraft and that's to protect it during launch because it has to go through a lot of pressure changes and temperature changes as you ascend through the atmosphere insight is
encapsulated it's off to the launch pad

it's on the transport vehicle and it's ready to roll and we'll be rolling out round 2 2 a.m. at that point we'll have a convoy that drives very slowly from the payload processing facility out to the slick 3 Atlas 5 facility and once it arrives we'll hoist the encapsulated spacecraft up to the top of the mobile service tower and place it on the launch vehicle this morning when it was sitting on the truck and they put the crane on they started to lift it up that's the last time because the spacecraft's ever
going to feel the ground of Earth I'm

just kind of jumping out of my skin

this is so exciting we're getting so

close to launch and it's been a long

long road for me we got it on top of the

rocket we're gonna blast it off in just

a few days and when it gets to Mars and

lands finally we'll have solid ground

under its feet again and get to work on

probing the depths of Mars

but insight isn't traveling to Mars

alone there are a couple of hitchhikers

on board so Marco is a dual payload

writing as a secondary mission on its


way to Mars Marco is a pair of cube

sense and cube sets a really small spacecraft they're essentially the size of a large cereal box about this big

it's gonna be relaying telemetry from the entry descent and landing of insight back to earth in near real time after insight is deployed on orbit and is heading to Mars centaur which is behind me injects Marco a into orbit and it'll slowly rotate itself so that Marco B ejects 180 degrees on the other side of the vehicle but Marco is a technology demonstration mission it's actually one of the
smallest spacecraft we've ever launched

interplanetary space it's the first interplanetary CubeSat so in of itself

it has all of these technology that we've never tested in deep space before

so if Marco works this time one of the cool things that we could do is actually replicate that system and fly it with other missions in the future whether you go to Mars Oh Venus or maybe even further away to an asteroid and you could think of it as bring your own telecom relay so now that our rocket has been assembled we're ready to go to Mars
and really excited to be able to launch

the first planetary mission from the

west coast so everything went well today

with the lifts of the spacecraft and

mate on to the rocket it started off

very foggy and

and right now it's a beautiful day this

typical California weather and now we're

ready to go to mark just a few more

checkouts and final launch preps and

it's time to send insight on its mission

to probe the depths of Mars