welcome to Kennedy NOW! a look at some of

the recent accomplishments and changes

underway at America's premier spaceport

NASA launch services program based at

Kennedy is working toward the summer

launch of the agency's newest

space-based observatories call Iris the

7-foot long spacecraft will use a

spectrograph to see the way energy moves

through the outer layers of the Sun and

into its shining Corona in late April

the spacecraft arrived at Vandenberg Air

Force Base in California where

technicians and LSP managers began the
final steps of processing it for launch

in June Iris will fly into space aboard a Pegasus rocket which will be dropped from a converted L-1011 airliner before igniting its engine to reach orbit another target came into focus for Kennedy and its unique workforce in April that's when NASA outlined and ambitious exploration mission aimed at sending astronauts to sample an asteroid as it flies through space we are thrilled with this mission we are looking forward to it it will be a challenge it will be complex and but
NASA's up to the challenge and the team that you see represented here is ready and willing to take it on the asteroid.

will be captured by a solar electric powered uncrewed spacecraft and placed into a stable orbit a human crew flying aboard an Orion spacecraft launched from kennedy will visit the asteroid they'll take samples from it the researchers will use to further their study of the space rocks the Orion flight launching on a Space Launch System super booster now under development could take place as soon as 2021 the Ryan design will be
tested next year during an uncrewed
mission using a spacecraft now being
assembled inside Kennedy's operations
and check-out building we've made
tremendous progress in our transition to
the future the flight test will send the
Orion spacecraft about 3,600 miles above
Earth or some 15 times higher than the
International Space Station from that
height it will plunge into the
atmosphere
more than 20,000 miles per hour to test
the spacecraft's heat shield while the
mission is a demanding test of the
spacecraft it will also provide proof of
Kennedy's expertise in continuing to build and launch spacecraft destined from unique and important exploration goals that's Kennedy now