launching aboard the four-stage taurus XL rocket NASA's Glory spacecraft will take its place among a series of Earth observing satellites collectively called the a-train once in orbit Glory will study the effect of aerosols on our planets energy budget both the tourists launch vehicle and the Glory spacecraft were built by Orbital Sciences Corporation and prepared for launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California the spacecraft arrived January 11 2011 at the Astro tech payload processing facility for final processing and
pre-launch check out soon after its protective covers were removed and its solar arrays were inspected and tested then glory was enclosed in the rounded payload fairing that will keep it safe during the critical climb to orbit a small deployer called peapod is hitching a ride into space along with glory mounted on the Taurus Rockets third stage tucked into the pea pod are the Alana cube sets three tiny satellites built by college and university students while the missions payloads were being prepared for flight the all solid fuel
Taurus XL vehicle was coming together at Vandenberg Space Launch Complex 576 II. The vehicle’s three upper sections stages one, two, and three were joined together and transported to the launch site for final assembly. First technicians carefully guided the Rocket’s ignition stage known as stage zero down onto its launch mount and bolted it in place next. The interstage, a structural adapter, came between the stage one and the wider stage, which is part of the Euro sections on February 15, 2011. The payload fairing was added to the third stage and the entire upper.
stack was installed leaving the Taurus

XL rocket and the glory spacecraft ready

for final testing and liftoff

you