Launch Controller: LC/LD Channel 1 LC/LD Channel 1: Go Ahead.

Launch Controller: This time LC we're going to scrub for the day, please set up for a 24-hour recycle.

LC/LD Channel 1: Roger.

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: As we just heard, launch has been scrubbed for today and we are setting up for a 24-hour recycle.

Joining me now is NASA Launch Manager Tim Dunn.

Well Tim, I guess things didn't work out for us this morning.

Can you explain the issue to us?

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: Yes, I'd be glad to Tracy.

So we had a nominal countdown but toward the end of the countdown we did get a reading that the C-band tracking beacon on the launch vehicle, the frequency of that tracking beacon was drifting from the range system that are picking that up.

Now that's a mandatory safety item so we can track the vehicle in flight.

We had a frequency drift that was occurring and with our very limited window,
we only had a 20-minute window to launch RBSP today,

we did not have enough time to evaluate the cause and certainly if we were OK.

The reason that C-band beacon is so important is in flight we only have a few tracking sources:

we can scan track from the radar; we can track the telemetry coming back from the launch vehicle;

we have optical tracking from cameras on the range and we then have the C-band beacon.

So if we were to lose one of these mandatories we would be down into a situation where it

might not be accessible to pass thought certain kinds of flight such as staging events.

Certainly with situation that is one we wish we didn't have. But we wanted to err on the side of conservatism.

Tomorrow or the day after are fine days to launch.

We're going to stand down for the day.

We've tentatively set up for a 24-hour recycle, so we look good on the range for an attempt for tomorrow.

However, we do need to clear this issue.

So the Launch Team is going to be working very hard. We need to safe and secure the vehicle.

We need to de-tank all the cryogenic propellants on the Atlas V right now.
That will take a few hours.

We then need to assess the situation. Is this a situation we can live with? Was it the range equipment that was giving erroneous readings?

Or was it truly the launch vehicle C-band transponder that had an anomaly.

If that's the case then we may have to access the launch vehicle and change out that piece of hardware once we understand root cause.

So right now we're leaning forward. We're going to go ahead and set up for a launch attempt tomorrow.

However we'll know much more a few hours from now, once we have time to look at the data.

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: Well thank you. If we have a launch attempt tomorrow, what time would that be?

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: For tomorrow's launch attempt it would be the 25th of August, Saturday morning and we would have the identical launch window as today.

So that's 0407 a.m. Eastern Time with a 20-minute window.

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: OK, well thank you for stopping by and explaining the issue to us, Tim.

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: Oh you're welcome.
Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: I'm sorry it didn't work out for us today.

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: Well, we don't launch unless we're absolutely certain and this was one of those cases.

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: OK, well thanks Tim.

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: You're welcome.

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: This will conclude our live coverage of the launch attempt of the Atlas V vehicle.

From the Atlas Spaceflight Center, this is Atlas Launch Control.