NASA is sending a new earth research spacecraft into orbit to measure and map the moisture within our planet soil. The soil moisture active passive mission will use remote sensing instruments to create global maps of earth soil moisture, helping us better understand water and carbon cycles. SMAP will get a boost into polar orbit aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta two rocket launching from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The first stage of the Delta two was pulled into Building 836 on July 23, 2014, it was offloaded and moved.
to the horizontal processing facility at

the launch site on August for the first

stage moved out to the mobile service

tower at Space Launch Complex to a crane

lifted the booster into the vertical

position then the interstage adapter was

installed on the top the Rockets three

solid rocket motors were attached to the

first stage on August 18 and two days

later the booster was topped with the

second stage once inside Astro tech SMAP

was put through a series of inspections

and tests to ensure it's ready to

perform during its three-year mission
the spacecraft wrapped up its pre-flight processing in mid-november final preparations began in the new year SMAP was joined to its launch vehicle hardware on january seven and during the following days it was bagged in a protective cover and placed into a protective payload fairing later the next week each of these milestones sets
the stage for success as NASA sends its

44
00:01:50,909 --> 00:01:56,990
newest satellite on its mission to map

45
00:01:53,399 --> 00:01:56,989
earth soil moisture