a day like any other brings the Sun but

this is not a day like any other it's

day one of NASA's robotic refueling

mission or RRM or the action is on the

International Space Station but also on

the ground aimed at developing

capabilities for servicing even

refueling spacecraft on orbit RRM is

like doing precise surgery at a distance

doctor and patients separated by the

void and vacuum of space it's tough but

the payoff is huge

no refueling on day one however that's

day five today's goal unscrewing a
mechanical cap but first the team has to get through a locking wire ground controllers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and engineers using the high fidelity mock-up here at Maryland's Goddard Space Flight Center wait months of careful software development hardware design and procedural rehearsals come to this then snip the tool cuts through but one tiny end Wiggles itself into a crazy position that could get in the way of unscrewing the fuel cap a Penny's worth of wire could foul the whole operation smart people get to work and that's the
point of our RF test test test and learn

everything possible from what happens

next

once flying satellites our uncooperative creatures and learning how to tame them

in space takes patience and wits soon

that pesky wire gets nudged aside and

the team goes in for the grapple contact

rotation capture day one complete but

check back our RM continues