



1  
00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:04,050  
Three trucks, one plane, one boat,

2  
00:00:04,070 --> 00:00:08,100  
two countries, one mission.

3  
00:00:16,180 --> 00:00:20,210  
The Global Precipitation Measurement mission's Core Observatory racked up

4  
00:00:20,230 --> 00:00:24,250  
7300 flight miles before it even left the planet.

5  
00:00:24,270 --> 00:00:28,290  
The Core Observatory in its shipping container took off for Japan on an Air Force

6  
00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:32,310  
Super Galaxy C-5 cargo plane on November 21,

7  
00:00:32,330 --> 00:00:36,320  
2013. A two-hour refueling stopover in Anchorage,

8  
00:00:36,340 --> 00:00:40,350  
Alaska, turned into two days when a snowstorm swept in.

9  
00:00:40,370 --> 00:00:44,400  
But sunny skies greeted the GPM Core Observatory

10  
00:00:44,420 --> 00:00:48,460  
when it landed at Kitakyushu Airport, Japan, on November 24th.

11  
00:00:48,480 --> 00:00:52,500  
Moving the 57,000 pound combined

12  
00:00:52,520 --> 00:00:56,540  
weight of the shipping container and the satellite took all hands on deck

13  
00:00:56,560 --> 00:01:00,580

from plane to truck to barge.

14

00:01:04,620 --> 00:01:08,620

Rough seas kept the boat at anchor

15

00:01:08,640 --> 00:01:12,640

for 24 hours in Saiki before it hit the open water.

16

00:01:12,660 --> 00:01:16,710

Arrival by sea is the only way to get heavy space equipment to Tanegashima Island.

17

00:01:16,730 --> 00:01:20,770

The tiny island has narrow, windy

18

00:01:20,790 --> 00:01:24,790

roads, so it wasn't until midnight when the streets were empty that the Core Observatory

19

00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:28,840

traveled the last nine miles to space center.

20

00:01:32,900 --> 00:01:36,920

Next, the GPM team unpacked the spacecraft in JAXA's

21

00:01:36,940 --> 00:01:40,960

Satellite Preparation Building for post-travel inspections and a

22

00:01:40,980 --> 00:01:44,980

Comprehensive Performance Test. These two tasks ensured that

23

00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,990

the Core Observatory was ready for launch. After a long,

24

00:01:49,010 --> 00:01:53,050

slow and careful journey to Tanegashima, GPM arrived safely

25

00:01:53,070 --> 00:01:57,110

and began its countdown to launch.

