
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
E·PLURIBUS
·UNUM·

1
00:00:00,030 --> 00:00:04,040
0.2 microradians. That's the

2
00:00:04,060 --> 00:00:07,500
angle of pointing stability of the ATLAS laser. If you

3
00:00:07,500 --> 00:00:12,120
placed a silver dollar 28 miles away from ATLAS, the laser's center

4
00:00:12,140 --> 00:00:16,140
would stay on the coin. That kind of stability is absolutely

5
00:00:16,160 --> 00:00:20,160
critical for the spacecraft to measure the height of Earth from orbit.

6
00:00:20,180 --> 00:00:24,220
To ensure pointing stability, ATLAS uses the Beam Steering Mechanism,

7
00:00:24,240 --> 00:00:28,260
which is a motorized mirror that moves to compensate for thermal changes

8
00:00:28,280 --> 00:00:32,290
that happen in orbit and prevents the ATLAS beams from bending as they head