



1  
00:00:00,900 --> 00:00:05,400

\h Music

2  
00:00:05,400 --> 00:00:10,840

\h The Dawn spacecraft and the Delta II rocket that will launch it depend on each other,

3  
00:00:10,840 --> 00:00:13,810

\h but take different paths to the launch pad.

4  
00:00:13,810 --> 00:00:18,160

\h Working in separate areas, teams of technicians prepare both the spacecraft

5  
00:00:18,160 --> 00:00:20,760

\h and the rocket at the same time.

6  
00:00:20,760 --> 00:00:25,410

\h That work started in April when the Dawn spacecraft arrived in Florida

7  
00:00:25,410 --> 00:00:30,190

\h at the Astrotech processing facility near NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

8  
00:00:30,190 --> 00:00:34,530

\h Technicians wearing protective coveralls removed the shipping container

9  
00:00:34,530 --> 00:00:38,470

\h and covers before inspecting the spacecraft.

10  
00:00:38,470 --> 00:00:42,790

\h The Delta II slated to loft the Dawn spacecraft toward the asteroid belt

11  
00:00:42,790 --> 00:00:47,860

\h started its own preparations at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

12  
00:00:47,860 --> 00:00:53,380

\h In a hangar a few miles from Launch Pad 17B,

13  
00:00:53,380 --> 00:00:55,730

\h workers tested the rocket's instruments and engines.

14

00:00:55,730 --> 00:00:59,050

\h The rocket was taken to the launch pad in stages.

15

00:00:59,050 --> 00:01:02,500

\h There, another team pointed the rocket toward space

16

00:01:02,500 --> 00:01:07,360

\h and began attaching nine solid-fueled boosters to the first stage.

17

00:01:07,360 --> 00:01:11,010

\h The boosters are crucial to making the rocket fast enough to break

18

00:01:11,010 --> 00:01:14,800

\h Earth's gravitational pull on the Dawn spacecraft.

19

00:01:14,800 --> 00:01:19,690

\h The second stage arrived separately and was lifted to the top of the Delta first stage

20

00:01:19,690 --> 00:01:22,690

\h where it waited for the spacecraft.

21

00:01:22,690 --> 00:01:29,180

\h While the rocket took its place, technicians at Astrotech ran more tests on the Dawn satellite

22

00:01:29,180 --> 00:01:34,730

\h and bolted on a pair of solar arrays that give the probe a winged appearance.

23

00:01:34,730 --> 00:01:39,450

\h They also readied a suite of sensors and cameras that will let Dawn study the Vesta

24

00:01:39,450 --> 00:01:43,380

\h and Ceres asteroids up close for the first time.

25

00:01:43,380 --> 00:01:48,690

\h The spacecraft was checked out and fueled with a xenon gas before it was attached

26

00:01:48,690 --> 00:01:55,000

\h to the third stage engine, rolled out of the Astrotech hangar and carried to the launch pad.

27

00:01:55,000 --> 00:01:59,450

\h A crane at the pad hoisted the spacecraft and its protective nosecone

28

00:01:59,450 --> 00:02:03,130

\h beside the rocket before latching it in place.