



20

1  
00:00:00,380 --> 00:00:00,599

\h

2  
00:00:00,600 --> 00:00:01,600

Music

3  
00:00:05,230 --> 00:00:06,813

Launching aboard the four-stage Taurus XL rocket, NASA's Glory spacecraft will take its place among a

4  
00:00:10,380 --> 00:00:15,113

series of Earth-observing satellites collectively called the "A-Train."

5  
00:00:15,400 --> 00:00:21,066

Once in orbit, Glory will study the effect of aerosols on our planet's energy budget.

6  
00:00:21,280 --> 00:00:22,110

Both the Taurus launch vehicle and the Glory spacecraft were built by Orbital Sciences Corporation and

7  
00:00:27,250 --> 00:00:27,310

prepared for launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

8  
00:00:31,390 --> 00:00:38,256

The spacecraft arrived Jan. 11, 2011, at the Astrotech Payload Processing Facility for final processing

9  
00:00:38,420 --> 00:00:39,953

and prelaunch checkout.

10  
00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:47,866

Soon after, its protective covers were removed and its solar arrays were inspected... and tested.

11  
00:00:47,910 --> 00:00:49,010

Then, Glory was enclosed in the rounded payload fairing that will keep it safe

12  
00:00:52,010 --> 00:00:54,343

during the critical climb to orbit.

13  
00:00:54,940 --> 00:00:55,253

A small deployer called P-POD is hitching a ride into space along with Glory,

14  
00:00:59,760 --> 00:01:02,626  
mounted on the Taurus rocket's third stage.

15  
00:01:02,790 --> 00:01:02,886  
Tucked into the P-POD are the ELaNa CubeSats, three tiny satellites

16  
00:01:07,160 --> 00:01:09,893  
built by college and university students.

17  
00:01:10,460 --> 00:01:11,743  
While the mission's payloads were being prepared for flight, the all-solid-fuel Taurus XL vehicle was

18  
00:01:15,910 --> 00:01:19,843  
coming together at Vandenberg's Space Launch Complex 576-E.

19  
00:01:21,490 --> 00:01:22,450  
The vehicle's three upper sections -- stages 1, 2 and 3 -- were joined together and transported to the

20  
00:01:27,330 --> 00:01:29,396  
launch site for final assembly.

21  
00:01:30,520 --> 00:01:30,886  
But first, technicians carefully guided the rocket's ignition stage, known as Stage 0, down onto its

22  
00:01:36,820 --> 00:01:39,220  
launch mount and bolted it in place.

23  
00:01:39,490 --> 00:01:45,756  
Next came the Interstage, a structural adapter between the Stage 1 and wider Stage 0 sections.

24  
00:01:46,420 --> 00:01:50,886  
On Feb. 15, 2011, the payload fairing was added to the third stage,