
3
IN2P

1
00:00:05,740 --> 00:00:11,500
A two-stage United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket is set to carry the Aquarius/SAC-D satellite to

2
00:00:11,500 --> 00:00:18,330
space -- its mission, to map the salinity at the ocean surface and provide new insights into how the

3
00:00:18,330 --> 00:00:22,520
massive natural exchange of freshwater between the ocean,

4
00:00:22,520 --> 00:00:28,130
atmosphere and sea ice influences ocean circulation, weather and climate.

5
00:00:28,130 --> 00:00:33,670
At Vandenberg Air Force Base in California the first stage of the Delta II rocket arrived and was

6
00:00:33,670 --> 00:00:40,970
lifted into the mobile service tower at Space Launch Complex-2, March 1, 2011.

7
00:00:40,970 --> 00:00:48,380
Within 3 weeks the three solid rocket boosters were attached and the second stage hoisted atop the first stage

8
00:00:48,380 --> 00:00:54,820
Meanwhile, the Aquarius/SAC-D spacecraft arrived from South America aboard an Air Force C-17 cargo

9
00:00:54,820 --> 00:00:58,890
aircraft on March 30 where it was offloaded and transported to the

10
00:00:58,890 --> 00:01:04,080
Spaceport Systems International payload processing facility on Vandenberg.

11
00:01:04,080 --> 00:01:10,000
The Aquarius/SAC-D mission is a collaboration between NASA and Argentina's space agency with

12
00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:15,480
participation by Brazil, Canada, France and Italy.

13
00:01:15,480 --> 00:01:21,060

Once in its processing cell, the spacecraft was hoisted onto the handling dolly and inspection of the

14
00:01:21,060 --> 00:01:25,940
solar arrays and testing of the vehicle's propulsion subsystem began.

15
00:01:25,940 --> 00:01:30,940
Later the satellite was rotated to a vertical position for further testing.

16
00:01:30,940 --> 00:01:38,220
By the beginning of May the solar arrays were attached and deployment and illumination testing was conducte

17
00:01:38,220 --> 00:01:46,910
Back at Space Launch Complex 2, the Delta II first stage was loaded with liquid oxygen and a simulated count

18
00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:52,170
The Aquarius/SAC-D spacecraft was then installed into its transportation canister, moved from the

19
00:01:52,170 --> 00:01:57,960
payload processing facility at Vandenberg and hoisted atop the Delta II rocket.

20
00:01:57,960 --> 00:02:03,420
An integrated electrical test to ensure the Delta II "communicated" with the Aquarius/SAC-D spacecraft

21
00:02:03,420 --> 00:02:09,510
was successfully completed and the protective fairing then was installed around the satellite.

22
00:02:09,510 --> 00:02:16,940
With these prelaunch milestones complete, Aquarius/SAC-D and the Delta II are ready for launch on June 10,