



1

00:00:00,440 --> 00:00:03,590

Launch Commentator George Diller: This is Atlas Launch Control, 50 minutes,

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00:00:03,590 --> 00:00:10,340

50 seconds into the flight of the Atlas V with Mars Science Laboratory and Curiosity.

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00:00:10,340 --> 00:00:17,370

We're standing by shortly for spacecraft acquisition through the Canberra deep space network tracking station.

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00:00:17,370 --> 00:00:26,580

We have our NASA Launch Director Omar Baez here with us in the control room and he's going to give us a br

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00:00:26,580 --> 00:00:33,480

indication of how the countdown went and how the flight looked to him. So, Omar, tell us how it looked.

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00:00:33,480 --> 00:00:36,830

NASA Launch Director Omar Baez: George, the countdown went very smoothly.

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00:00:36,830 --> 00:00:43,950

We worked a couple of minor issues, but none really on the launch vehicle or spacecraft.

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00:00:43,950 --> 00:00:50,610

More dealing with communications and really fretting the weather or clouds coming in

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00:00:50,610 --> 00:00:53,330

because it was one of the constraints for this one.

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00:00:53,330 --> 00:01:00,600

And the count went very smoothly. We got off on the first opportunity at 10:02 in the morning,

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00:01:00,600 --> 00:01:04,400

right on the money, and the flight looked great.

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00:01:04,400 --> 00:01:13,370

Our parameters looked great and we separated on time and we had some spectacular video I'm sure went out

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00:01:13,370 --> 00:01:19,760

confirmed that we did separate the spacecraft and it looked to be in good shape.

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00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:23,860

I know that they were power-positive even before separating,

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00:01:23,860 --> 00:01:37,230

so the MSL spacecraft has what it needs to survive in the next couple of hours and we're just waiting for acquisition.

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00:01:37,230 --> 00:01:42,440

Launch Commentator George Diller: So spacecraft separation appeared to be clean from what we could tell?

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00:01:42,440 --> 00:01:47,000

NASA Launch Director Omar Baez: From what I saw of it, visually and on telemetry, that was a clean separation.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:53,780

Launch Commentator George Diller: Well, we seem to have had a very successful flight of this Atlas V and I think that's very good.

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00:01:53,780 --> 00:02:00,610

have just had initial acquisition of the spacecraft through the Canberra tracking station,

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00:02:00,610 --> 00:02:04,070

that's just been confirmed to us, so that's very good.

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00:02:04,070 --> 00:02:10,900

So we've got it. And, Omar, I guess we have another Atlas launch coming up sometime this summer, I think.

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00:02:10,900 --> 00:02:14,910

NASA Launch Director Omar Baez: Yeah, the next Atlas coming up for us would be the RBSP,

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00:02:14,910 --> 00:02:24,210

or radiation belt solar probe and that will be our next Atlas V, currently scheduled for Aug. 30.

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00:02:24,210 --> 00:02:28,880

Launch Commentator George Diller: Alright. Omar, thank you very much and congratulations on having a

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00:02:28,880 --> 00:02:33,520

very happy flight and a very happy spacecraft on the way to Mars.

