



ATLAS

USAF

USA

NASA

OXYGEN
NON-FLAMMABLE
LIQUID

1

00:00:01,180 --> 00:00:07,410

George Diller/NASA Launch Commentator: This Atlas Launch Control. We are now just under two and a half h

2

00:00:07,410 --> 00:00:14,390

from the launch of the Mars Science Laboratory and the Curiosity rover atop a

3

00:00:14,390 --> 00:00:22,050

United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral.

4

00:00:22,050 --> 00:00:31,290

The launch window today extends from 10:02 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. A duration of one hour and 43 minutes.

5

00:00:31,290 --> 00:00:39,980

The Curiosity rover will gather the soil and rock samples for the onboard laboratory equipment to attempt to de

6

00:00:39,980 --> 00:00:44,090

chemical building blocks that provide clues about life processes on Mars.

7

00:00:44,090 --> 00:00:54,120

With the liftoff today, the Mars Science Laboratory begins an eight-and-a-half month journey to Mars, arriving in

8

00:00:54,120 --> 00:00:58,960

The landing will occur at 3 p.m. local time at Gale Crater on Mars.

9

00:00:58,960 --> 00:01:04,700

At that point, the radio signals will take 13 minutes and 42 seconds to

10

00:01:04,700 --> 00:01:11,270

cover the 154 million-miles distance between Mars and Earth.

11

00:01:11,270 --> 00:01:19,320

About 10 minutes ago the launch pad was cleared of all personnel to begin

12

00:01:19,320 --> 00:01:25,100

preparations for loading cryogenic liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

13

00:01:25,100 --> 00:01:32,550

Liquid oxygen will be loaded in to the Atlas booster stage, the first stage, and will be followed by loading liquid

14

00:01:32,550 --> 00:01:40,180

oxygen and liquid hydrogen into the Centaur upper stage, or the second stage.

15

00:01:40,180 --> 00:01:46,840

We've just had a weather briefing by our Launch Weather Officer Clay Finn.

16

00:01:46,840 --> 00:01:54,740

And we remain 70 percent ?go,? 30 percent ?no-go? as far as our launch weather criteria.

17

00:01:54,740 --> 00:02:01,780

At launch time, the temperature will be approximately 73 to 74 degrees.

18

00:02:01,780 --> 00:02:09,140

We'll have easterly winds 18 to 21 knots occasionally gusting to 24.

19

00:02:09,140 --> 00:02:15,150

Relative humidity of 70 percent. Visibility of seven to 10 miles.

20

00:02:15,150 --> 00:02:19,390

And we'll have scattered clouds for the most part occasionally.

21

00:02:19,390 --> 00:02:31,160

There is a chance for a variable broken layer to appear and as that occurs should the ceilings become a launch

22

00:02:31,160 --> 00:02:34,890

constraint then we will just simply wait that out as they pass over,