



1

00:00:01,630 --> 00:00:04,440

Launch Controller: LC/LD Channel 1 LC/LD Channel 1: Go Ahead.

2

00:00:04,440 --> 00:00:09,520

Launch Controller: This time LC we're going to scrub for the day, please set up for a 24-hour recycle.

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00:00:09,520 --> 00:00:11,380

LC/LD Channel 1: Roger.

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00:00:11,380 --> 00:00:14,620

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: As we just heard, launch has been scrubbed for today

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00:00:14,620 --> 00:00:19,400

and we are setting up for a 24-hour recycle.

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00:00:19,400 --> 00:00:23,100

Joining me now is NASA Launch Manager Tim Dunn.

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00:00:23,100 --> 00:00:26,340

Well Tim, I guess things didn't work out for us this morning.

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00:00:26,340 --> 00:00:28,870

Can you explain the issue to us?

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00:00:28,870 --> 00:00:31,290

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: Yes, I'd be glad to Tracy.

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00:00:31,290 --> 00:00:38,550

So we had a nominal countdown but toward the end of the countdown we did get a reading that

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00:00:38,550 --> 00:00:46,870

the C-band tracking beacon on the launch vehicle, the frequency of that tracking beacon was

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00:00:46,870 --> 00:00:50,950

drifting from the range system that are picking that up.

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00:00:50,950 --> 00:00:56,040

Now that's a mandatory safety item so we can track the vehicle in flight.

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00:00:56,040 --> 00:01:01,500

We had a frequency drift that was occurring and with our very limited window,

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00:01:01,500 --> 00:01:04,950

we only had a 20-minute window to launch RBSP today,

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00:01:04,950 --> 00:01:12,330

we did not have enough time to evaluate the cause and certainly if we were OK.

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00:01:12,330 --> 00:01:19,300

The reason that C-band beacon is so important is in flight we only have a few tracking sources:

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00:01:19,300 --> 00:01:24,810

we can scan track from the radar; we can track the telemetry coming back from the launch vehicle;

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00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:29,830

we have optical tracking from cameras on the range and we then have the C-band beacon.

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00:01:29,830 --> 00:01:37,110

So if we were to lose one of these mandatories we would be down into a situation where it

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00:01:37,110 --> 00:01:43,070

might not be accessible to pass thought certain kinds of flight such as staging events.

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00:01:43,070 --> 00:01:54,420

Certainly with situation that is one we wish we didn't have. But we wanted to err on the side of conservatism.

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00:01:54,420 --> 00:01:57,750

Tomorrow or the day after are fine days to launch.

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00:01:57,750 --> 00:02:00,110

We're going to stand down for the day.

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00:02:00,110 --> 00:02:08,020

We've tentatively set up for a 24-hour recycle, so we look good on the range for an attempt for tomorrow.

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00:02:08,020 --> 00:02:11,140

However, we do need to clear this issue.

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00:02:11,140 --> 00:02:16,590

So the Launch Team is going to be working very hard. We need to safe and secure the vehicle.

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00:02:16,590 --> 00:02:21,210

We need to de-tank all the cryogenic propellants on the Atlas V right now.

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00:02:21,210 --> 00:02:22,940

That will take a few hours.

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00:02:22,940 --> 00:02:29,170

We then we need to assess the situation. Is this a situation we can live with? Was it the

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00:02:29,170 --> 00:02:32,720

range equipment that was giving erroneous readings?

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00:02:32,720 --> 00:02:37,710

Or was it truly the launch vehicle C-band transponder that had an anomaly.

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00:02:37,710 --> 00:02:43,260

If that's the case then we may have to access the launch vehicle and change

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00:02:43,260 --> 00:02:47,150

out that piece of hardware once we understand root cause.

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00:02:47,150 --> 00:02:53,790

So right now we're leaning forward. We're going to go ahead and set up for a launch attempt tomorrow.

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00:02:53,790 --> 00:03:00,790

However we'll know much more a few hours from now, once we have time to look at the data.

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00:03:00,790 --> 00:03:05,560

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: Well thank you. If we have a launch attempt tomorrow, what time w

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00:03:05,560 --> 00:03:09,910

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: For tomorrow's launch attempt it would be the 25th of August,

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00:03:09,910 --> 00:03:14,130

Saturday morning and we would have the identical launch window as today.

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00:03:14,130 --> 00:03:18,790

So that's 0407 a.m. Eastern Time with a 20-minute window.

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00:03:18,790 --> 00:03:22,370

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: OK, well thank you for stopping by and explaining the issue to us, T

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00:03:22,370 --> 00:03:23,930

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: Oh you're welcome.

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00:03:23,930 --> 00:03:25,180

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: I'm sorry it didn't work out for us today.

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00:03:25,180 --> 00:03:30,910

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: Well, we don't launch unless we're absolutely certain and this was one of th

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00:03:30,910 --> 00:03:32,100

Tracy Young/NASA Launch Commentator: OK, well thanks Tim.

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00:03:32,100 --> 00:03:33,380

Tim Dunn/NASA Launch Manager: You're welcome.