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00:00:02,030 --> 00:00:06,000

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: This is Atlas Launch Control and we have a reaction

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00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:10,740

\h from the team here in the Mission Directors Center, which we're going to get Tim Dunn,

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00:00:10,740 --> 00:00:18,020

\h who is our assistant launch director, to tell us what that's about because there was certainly some

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00:00:18,020 --> 00:00:24,310

\h smiles and some handshakes and some jubilation here when we got the word of the latest event.

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00:00:24,310 --> 00:00:29,250

\h Tell us, Tim, what you've learned the status is of LDCM.

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00:00:29,250 --> 00:00:34,000

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Well, hello, George. We just got confirmation that the solar arrays

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:39,750

\h have developed successfully for LDCM. So, that was the first main mark event post separation.

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00:00:39,750 --> 00:00:43,870

\h So, you saw the reaction in the control room. Everyone's very relieved.

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00:00:43,870 --> 00:00:48,140

\h We've got telemetry coming back from LDCM. So, all is well so far.

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00:00:48,140 --> 00:00:51,200

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: That is good. So the spacecraft is power positive

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00:00:51,200 --> 00:00:56,230

\h and it's off on the mission that we had hoped.

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00:00:56,230 --> 00:01:00,460

\h So, Tim, tell us a little bit from your perspective about how

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00:01:00,460 --> 00:01:03,950

\h the countdown went since early this morning.

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00:01:03,950 --> 00:01:07,260

\h What time did you actually come into the Mission Directors Center?

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00:01:07,260 --> 00:01:09,760

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Well, I came in about up to 3:30 a.m. PST,

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00:01:09,760 --> 00:01:14,600

\h local time here at Vandenberg. But first I'd like to say obviously I'm speaking on behalf of Omar Baez.

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00:01:14,600 --> 00:01:20,410

\h Omar is the launch director for this mission. Here at Vandenberg, we have a slightly different

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00:01:20,410 --> 00:01:22,050

\h configuration for our launch team.

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00:01:22,050 --> 00:01:23,560

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: That's right, we're kind of spread out.

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00:01:23,560 --> 00:01:27,460

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: We have the core senior management on the north part of the ba

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00:01:27,460 --> 00:01:29,990

\h the remote launch center along the with ULA and then we have our

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00:01:29,990 --> 00:01:32,840

\h engineering team here in Building 836 on south Vandenberg.

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00:01:32,840 --> 00:01:37,340

\h So, I was able to work the countdown with Omar and come down here just

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00:01:37,340 --> 00:01:42,750

\h before confirmation of spacecraft sep and I'm glad to be here with you.

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00:01:42,750 --> 00:01:45,210

\h So, just a few notes about today's countdown.

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00:01:45,210 --> 00:01:47,280

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: Right, about how things went. Right.

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00:01:47,280 --> 00:01:50,850

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Yeah, things could not have gone better today, George.

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00:01:50,850 --> 00:01:57,460

\h It really was an absolutely smooth countdown and that's a testament to our incredible Atlas V team,

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00:01:57,460 --> 00:01:59,970

\h both with government and contractor.

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00:01:59,970 --> 00:02:02,620

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: We didn't hear much offline discussion.

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00:02:02,620 --> 00:02:08,110

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Virtually, I'll run down each of the components of our team.

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00:02:08,110 --> 00:02:09,390

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: OK.

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00:02:09,390 --> 00:02:12,910

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Weather, we thought we might be dealing with a little bit of cool

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00:02:12,910 --> 00:02:16,640

\h temperatures going into cryo tanking, but we didn't even have that.

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00:02:16,640 --> 00:02:20,330

\h We were well above our cryo limit as we went into tanking.

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00:02:20,330 --> 00:02:23,130

\h Upper level winds were green for flight.

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00:02:23,130 --> 00:02:28,870

\h The range, I'll compliment the 30th Space Wing range team, Colonel Nina Armagno,

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00:02:28,870 --> 00:02:32,460

\h has an exceptional team here at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

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00:02:32,460 --> 00:02:37,530

\h We love coming out to Vandenberg and absolutely no range issues today.

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00:02:37,530 --> 00:02:43,160

\h And the launch vehicle. That Atlas V did, it's a work horse for us,

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00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:45,950

\h and it absolutely performed beautifully today.

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00:02:45,950 --> 00:02:50,690

\h We had only one very minor issue and that was with a camera that had

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00:02:50,690 --> 00:02:55,690

\h condensation on it as the sun came up. But that quickly burned off.

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00:02:55,690 --> 00:03:00,300

\h It was a camera that was monitoring our LO2 drain plugs.

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00:03:00,300 --> 00:03:04,880

\h So, very good performance by the entire team today, exceptional,

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00:03:04,880 --> 00:03:09,220

\h we're all thrilled with what we have on orbit now in LDCM.

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00:03:09,220 --> 00:03:13,030

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: So then the flight, what you saw after liftoff all the way up to

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00:03:13,030 --> 00:03:16,420

\h separation appeared to be exactly what it was supposed to be

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00:03:16,420 --> 00:03:17,970

\h happening when it was supposed to be happening.

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00:03:17,970 --> 00:03:19,760

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: We were able to look at the booster performance.

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00:03:19,760 --> 00:03:22,850

\h We had very, very clean booster performance.

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00:03:22,850 --> 00:03:27,110

\h The team is, they are looking at Centaur second stage performance now.

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00:03:27,110 --> 00:03:30,170

\h But based on the orbital elements that we saw,

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00:03:30,170 --> 00:03:35,560

\h we believe that we had just exceptional Centaur performance as well.

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00:03:35,560 --> 00:03:38,060

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: That's good. It looks like we've kind of,

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00:03:38,060 --> 00:03:45,250

\h kind of laid the foundation for another mission, which is coming back at the Cape later on this year,

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00:03:45,250 --> 00:03:49,020

\h which is another Mars mission. Is that right?

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00:03:49,020 --> 00:03:51,150

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: We're going back to Mars in November

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00:03:51,150 --> 00:03:54,790

\h of this year on an Atlas V out of Cape Canaveral.

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00:03:54,790 --> 00:03:59,820

\h So, I would like to, I guess, make a few more comments about what

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00:03:59,820 --> 00:04:05,210

\h Charlie Bolden was commenting on, our NASA administrator.

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00:04:05,210 --> 00:04:09,770

\h The closeness of these two missions, I don't think everyone realizes what all is

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00:04:09,770 --> 00:04:17,970

\h involved in launching two Atlas Vs, one off the east coast, one off the west coast 11 1/2 days apart.

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00:04:17,970 --> 00:04:25,460

\h Tremendous teamwork between the NASA LSP team, the spacecraft teams and especially United Launch

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00:04:25,460 --> 00:04:31,780

\h Alliance to review all of the data that was required, to disposition all of the data observations.

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00:04:31,780 --> 00:04:37,390

\h Just exceptional work, George. And then as we approached the last few days as we were getting ready

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00:04:37,390 --> 00:04:43,680

\h LDCM, completing FRR, working through a few last-minutes issues Thursday night and Friday, having the

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00:04:43,680 --> 00:04:46,900

\h LRR on Friday, coming back as a reconvene on Saturday,

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00:04:46,900 --> 00:04:52,640

\h just I can't compliment the launch team enough, just exceptional work.

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00:04:52,640 --> 00:04:58,990

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: Well, Tim, that's good, I think that pretty much says that going

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00:04:58,990 --> 00:05:03,420

\h forward we will be well prepared for our remaining Atlas missions that will be

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00:05:03,420 --> 00:05:06,400

\h coming up from Cape Canaveral later on this year.

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00:05:06,400 --> 00:05:07,160

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Absolutely.

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00:05:07,160 --> 00:05:08,680

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: So, any closing remarks, Tim?

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00:05:08,680 --> 00:05:10,620

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Yeah, I would like to point out one thing.

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00:05:10,620 --> 00:05:14,610

\h As Omar and I were in the remote launch control center this morning,

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00:05:14,610 --> 00:05:19,270

\h we noticed that there was a drawing on the wall in the break room,

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00:05:19,270 --> 00:05:21,680

\h so if we could show that.

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00:05:21,680 --> 00:05:26,470

\h This is a graphic that a young lady at one of the local high schools here near

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00:05:26,470 --> 00:05:28,340

\h Vandenberg Air Force Base drew.

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00:05:28,340 --> 00:05:34,080

\h This and obviously this is an Atlas V and its got some wonderful words

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00:05:34,080 --> 00:05:36,420

\h wishing the launch team best luck.

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00:05:36,420 --> 00:05:39,630

\h And what I wanted to point out is that she says the

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00:05:39,630 --> 00:05:43,770

\h Atlas V launching here and what the men and women here at Vandenberg,

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00:05:43,770 --> 00:05:48,330

\h particularly United Launch Alliance, do to inspire her and her classmates.

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00:05:48,330 --> 00:05:53,140

\h And I wanted to tell Annalise that you inspire us.

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00:05:53,140 --> 00:05:58,460

\h We were really moved when we saw this, so keep doing what you're doing.

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00:05:58,460 --> 00:06:02,030

\h I know you're in the robotics club here in the local high school.

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00:06:02,030 --> 00:06:06,060

\h And your note says that your school was watching the launch so hopefully

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00:06:06,060 --> 00:06:08,750

\h we put on a good show on for you and your classmates.

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00:06:08,750 --> 00:06:12,630

\h And we're really excited when we can inspire people in science,

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00:06:12,630 --> 00:06:16,320

\h technology, engineering and mathematics. So, thank you, George.

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00:06:16,320 --> 00:06:17,400

\h George Diller/Launch Commentator: Well, Tim, thanks very much.

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00:06:17,400 --> 00:06:20,710

\h And congratulations to you and Omar and the entire

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00:06:20,710 --> 00:06:26,400

\h United Launch Alliance team and Vern Thorpe is quite please as well.

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00:06:26,400 --> 00:06:30,990

\h So, thank you once again and we'll see you back at Cape Canaveral.

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00:06:30,990 --> 00:06:32,480

\h Tim Dunn/Assistant Launch Manager: Great, thank you, George.