



1

00:00:01,060 --> 00:00:03,110

George Diller/NASA Launch Commentator: This is Atlas Launch Control.

2

00:00:03,110 --> 00:00:06,200

T-minus two hours and holding.

3

00:00:06,200 --> 00:00:11,840

We're now just under two-and-a-half hours away from the launch of the MAVEN spacecraft

4

00:00:11,840 --> 00:00:16,760

aboard an Atlas-V rocket from Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral.

5

00:00:16,760 --> 00:00:22,570

With the launch today, MAVEN will arrive at Mars on Sept. 22, 2014.

6

00:00:22,570 --> 00:00:27,630

It will be the first spacecraft ever to make direct measurements of the Martian atmosphere

7

00:00:27,630 --> 00:00:32,279

to help understand the dramatic climate change over the Red Planet's history.

8

00:00:32,279 --> 00:00:37,120

To study the upper Martian atmosphere, MAVEN will be in elliptical orbit with an apo axis,

9

00:00:37,120 --> 00:00:41,770

of high point, of 3,864 miles above the planet.

10

00:00:41,770 --> 00:00:49,200

And a low point, or perihelion axis of just 77 miles as it dips down into the upper-Martian

11

00:00:49,200 --> 00:00:50,920

atmosphere.

12

00:00:50,920 --> 00:00:55,070

At this point in the count down, about 12 minutes ago, we entered a planned, built-in

13

00:00:55,070 --> 00:00:56,230

hold.

14

00:00:56,230 --> 00:00:59,930

We're not working any technical issues at this time.

15

00:00:59,930 --> 00:01:05,170

We've had a briefing from our launch weather officer, Clay Flynn, from the 45th Weather

16

00:01:05,170 --> 00:01:06,170

Squadron.

17

00:01:06,170 --> 00:01:10,829

And the forecast remains unchanged, just a 40 percent chance of not meeting our launch

18

00:01:10,829 --> 00:01:12,200

weather criteria.

19

00:01:12,200 --> 00:01:20,070

At launch time the temperature will be 79 degrees to 80 degrees with scattered clouds,

20

00:01:20,070 --> 00:01:28,210

southeasterly winds 10 to 15 knots and just a chance of an isolated rain shower.

21

00:01:28,210 --> 00:01:34,799

So at this time we continue toward our planned 1:28 p.m. liftoff.