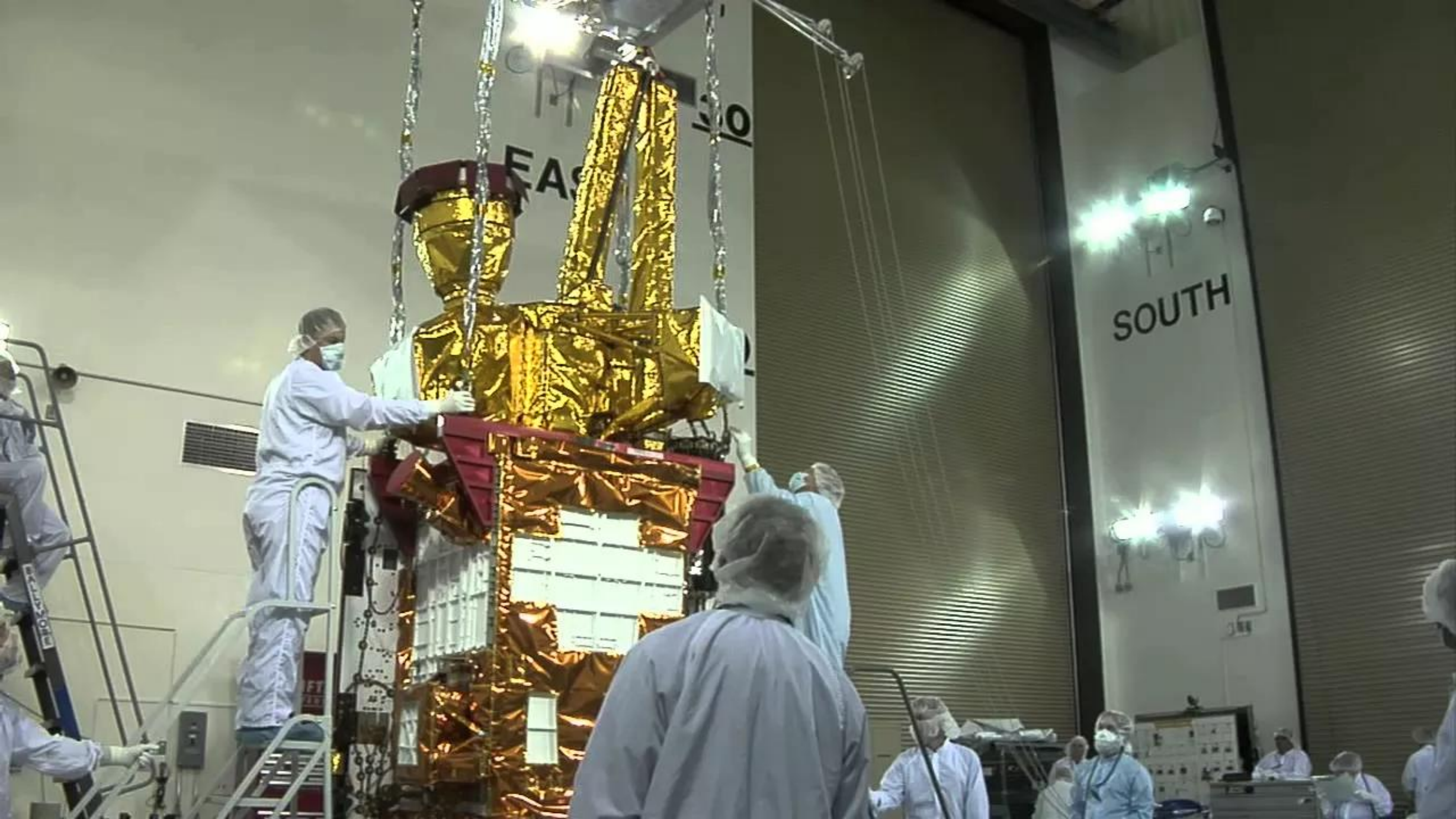
SOUTH

1
00:00:00,420 --> 00:00:05,920
NASA is sending a new Earth-research spacecraft
into orbit to measure and map the moisture

2
00:00:05,920 --> 00:00:08,330
within our planet’s soil.

3
00:00:08,330 --> 00:00:14,000
The Soil Moisture Active Passive mission will
use remote-sensing instruments to create global

4
00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:19,850
maps of Earth’s soil moisture – helping
us better understand water and carbon cycles.

5
00:00:19,850 --> 00:00:25,630
SMAP will get a boost into polar orbit aboard
a United Launch Alliance Delta II rocket launching

6
00:00:25,630 --> 00:00:28,510
from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

7
00:00:29,580 --> 00:00:35,960
The first stage of the Delta II pulled into
Building 836 on July 23, 2014.

8
00:00:36,520 --> 00:00:41,460
It was offloaded and moved to the Horizontal Processing Facility at the launch site.

9
00:00:41,469 --> 00:00:46,359
On August 4, 2014, the first stage moved out
to the Mobile Service Tower at Space Launch

10
00:00:46,359 --> 00:00:52,139
Complex 2. A crane lifted the booster into
the vertical position, then the interstage

11
00:00:52,139 --> 00:00:54,959
adapter was installed on the top.

12
00:00:54,959 --> 00:01:00,209
The rocket’s three solid rocket motors were
attached to the first stage on August 18,

13
00:01:00,209 --> 00:01:03,159
and two days later, the booster was topped
with the second stage.

14
00:01:04,280 --> 00:01:10,260
Once inside Astrotech, SMAP was put through a series of inspections and tests to ensure it’s ready

15
00:01:10,270 --> 00:01:13,640
to perform during its three-year mission.

16
00:01:13,640 --> 00:01:18,320
The spacecraft wrapped up its preflight processing
in mid-November.

17
00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:23,880
Final preparations began in the new year.
SMAP was joined to its launch vehicle hardware

18
00:01:23,880 --> 00:01:29,729
on January 7, and during the following days,
it was bagged in a protective cover and placed

19
00:01:29,729 --> 00:01:33,749
into a canister for the move to Space Launch
Complex 2.

20
00:01:33,749 --> 00:01:38,960
The observatory was transferred to the launch
complex and hoisted into place atop the Delta

21
00:01:38,960 --> 00:01:44,200
II rocket on January 13, and secured inside the protective payload fairing

22
00:01:44,200 --> 00:01:45,220

later the next week.