



1

00:00:01,300 --> 00:00:03,170

George Diller/NASA Launch Commentator: This is Delta Launch Control minus

2

00:00:03,170 --> 00:00:07,330

one hour, 49 minutes, 19 seconds and counting.

3

00:00:07,330 --> 00:00:11,990

From Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, we are slightly more than two hours

4

00:00:11,990 --> 00:00:17,070

away from the launch of the Soil Moisture Active Passive observatory, also called

5

00:00:17,070 --> 00:00:18,130

SMAP.

6

00:00:18,130 --> 00:00:22,939

Liftoff from Space Launch Complex 2 aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta II

7

00:00:22,939 --> 00:00:25,659

rocket is scheduled for 6:20 a.m.

8

00:00:25,659 --> 00:00:27,810

Pacific time at the opening of a three-minute

9

00:00:27,810 --> 00:00:29,980

launch window.

10

00:00:29,980 --> 00:00:34,340

SMAP is the first U.S Earth-observing satellite designed to collect global

11

00:00:34,340 --> 00:00:39,190

observations of surface soil moisture in its freeze/thaw state.

12  
00:00:39,190 --> 00:00:43,500  
High-resolution, space-based measurements  
of soil moisture, and whether the soil is

13  
00:00:43,500 --> 00:00:48,289  
frozen or thawed, will give scientists a new  
capability to better predict natural

14  
00:00:48,289 --> 00:00:54,420  
hazards of extreme weather, climate change,  
floods or droughts, and will reduce

15  
00:00:54,420 --> 00:01:00,090  
uncertainties in our understanding of Earth's  
water, energy and carbon cycles.

16  
00:01:00,090 --> 00:01:04,010  
The mission will provide the most accurate  
and highest resolution maps of soil

17  
00:01:04,010 --> 00:01:05,970  
moisture ever obtained.

18  
00:01:05,970 --> 00:01:09,260  
Mapping the globe every two to three days  
from space for at

19  
00:01:09,260 --> 00:01:12,650  
least three years.

20  
00:01:12,650 --> 00:01:17,790  
Right now the countdown is continuing without  
any issues being worked as far as

21  
00:01:17,790 --> 00:01:21,450  
the Delta II rocket and the SMAP spacecraft.

22  
00:01:21,450 --> 00:01:26,890  
The mobile service tower was retracted from

around the Delta II last night at 9:20

23  
00:01:26,890 --> 00:01:31,150  
p.m. after the RP-1 fuel was loaded aboard.

24  
00:01:31,150 --> 00:01:38,820  
Out terminal countdown began at 3:20 a.m.  
this morning Pacific Time.

25  
00:01:38,820 --> 00:01:45,460  
And we have had consecutive weather balloons  
in the air measuring the upper-level

26  
00:01:45,460 --> 00:01:46,460  
winds.

27  
00:01:46,460 --> 00:01:51,000  
We're through the third balloon and another  
balloon will be released shortly.

28  
00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:56,480  
As we evaluate the conditions, we should get  
some update on those conditions from

29  
00:01:56,480 --> 00:02:02,560  
out NASA Launch Manager Tim Dunn during his  
next poll coming up here in about

30  
00:02:02,560 --> 00:02:04,750  
15 minutes.