



1

00:00:00,539 --> 00:00:02,919

Mike Curie/NASA Launch Commentator: This is Atlas Launch Control at a mission elapsed

2

00:00:02,919 --> 00:00:04,270

time of 3

3

00:00:04,270 --> 00:00:07,810

hours, 35 minutes and 48 seconds.

4

00:00:07,810 --> 00:00:12,049

It's been a long day; it's been a long day here in the Atlas Spacecraft

5

00:00:12,049 --> 00:00:16,930

Operations Center for the launch team and we're pleased at this point to be joined by

6

00:00:16,930 --> 00:00:17,930

the NASA launch

7

00:00:17,930 --> 00:00:23,900

manager from NASA's Launch Services Program here at Kennedy Space Center, Omar Baez.

8

00:00:23,900 --> 00:00:24,900

Good

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00:00:24,900 --> 00:00:25,900

evening, Omar.

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00:00:25,900 --> 00:00:27,279

Omar Baez/NASA Launch Manager: Thank you, Mike.

11

00:00:27,279 --> 00:00:31,570

Mike Curie/NASA Launch Commentator: We thought we would have you about an hour earlier than

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00:00:31,570 --> 00:00:32,570

we

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00:00:32,570 --> 00:00:33,570

do at this point.

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00:00:33,570 --> 00:00:37,770

But it turned out to be kind of a longer day than you anticipated.

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00:00:37,770 --> 00:00:38,770

Can you tell us a little

16

00:00:38,770 --> 00:00:39,770

bit about that?

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00:00:39,770 --> 00:00:40,770

Omar Baez/NASA Launch Manager: Sure.

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00:00:40,770 --> 00:00:41,770

It's been a long two days.

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00:00:41,770 --> 00:00:44,170

You know, we start this at L-minus

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00:00:44,170 --> 00:00:45,750

two days.

21

00:00:45,750 --> 00:00:50,580

We started yesterday with rolling the vehicle out, and it took us a long time.

22

00:00:50,580 --> 00:00:51,870

We had a traction

23

00:00:51,870 --> 00:00:59,500

device that was supposed to help two other of the traction devices, and this one was

24

00:00:59,500 --> 00:01:00,500

stubborn and

25

00:01:00,500 --> 00:01:01,720

wouldn't start.

26

00:01:01,720 --> 00:01:06,410

And so it just snowballed from there.

27

00:01:06,410 --> 00:01:11,110

So the guys really worked hard through the day

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00:01:11,110 --> 00:01:16,280

yesterday and into the night, came back early this morning.

29

00:01:16,280 --> 00:01:19,960

And we were behind by quite a bit and were

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00:01:19,960 --> 00:01:30,590

able to catch up and work through some issues not only on the range but with some of the

31

00:01:30,590 --> 00:01:31,590

GSE.

32

00:01:31,590 --> 00:01:35,810

Mike Curie/NASA Launch Commentator: Ground support equipment.

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00:01:35,810 --> 00:01:37,400

Omar Baez/NASA Launch Manager: Ground support equipment.

34

00:01:37,400 --> 00:01:42,240

And then, were even affected by

35  
00:01:42,240 --> 00:01:47,159  
something that was going on on one of the  
other pads at the very end there.

36  
00:01:47,159 --> 00:01:50,530  
So it was like doing one of

37  
00:01:50,530 --> 00:01:56,119  
our dress rehearsals - we just went through  
about everything you could imagine, except

38  
00:01:56,119 --> 00:01:57,270  
for actual

39  
00:01:57,270 --> 00:02:00,070  
problems with the flight hardware.

40  
00:02:00,070 --> 00:02:05,810  
The flight hardware performed beautifully  
throughout the count,

41  
00:02:05,810 --> 00:02:08,300  
and the weather was perfect.

42  
00:02:08,300 --> 00:02:15,569  
But the culmination of all those low-level  
issues caused us to consume

43  
00:02:15,569 --> 00:02:19,359  
most of the hour window that we had -- in  
fact, all of it.

44  
00:02:19,359 --> 00:02:25,209  
So once we targeted the end of the window,  
we

45  
00:02:25,209 --> 00:02:26,689  
were able to hit it.

46  
00:02:26,689 --> 00:02:34,200  
A couple minutes ago here, you probably heard  
some shouting and so forth, and that

47  
00:02:34,200 --> 00:02:37,749  
was just congratulatory -- you know, the spacecraft  
separated.

48  
00:02:37,749 --> 00:02:40,830  
Quite a long mission from the time of

49  
00:02:40,830 --> 00:02:43,419  
launch to separation, three-and-a-half hours.

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00:02:43,419 --> 00:02:47,019  
That's unusual for normal NASA missions, which  
are

51  
00:02:47,019 --> 00:02:54,049  
usually about an hour and a half between the  
time we launch to the time we actually separate

52  
00:02:54,049 --> 00:02:55,049  
the

53  
00:02:55,049 --> 00:02:56,049  
spacecraft.

54  
00:02:56,049 --> 00:02:57,049  
But all is going well.

55  
00:02:57,049 --> 00:03:00,099  
Mike Curie/NASA Launch Commentator: It was  
a beautiful launch and it looked like everything

56  
00:03:00,099 --> 00:03:01,099  
went

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00:03:01,099 --> 00:03:02,099

well.

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00:03:02,099 --> 00:03:07,109

The Atlas booster performed perfectly and the Centaur completed three perfect burns.

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00:03:07,109 --> 00:03:08,109

And it

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00:03:08,109 --> 00:03:13,680

sounds like, from what Marty Malinowski was saying, the spacecraft is nearly exactly where

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00:03:13,680 --> 00:03:14,680

it's

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00:03:14,680 --> 00:03:15,680

supposed to be in space.

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00:03:15,680 --> 00:03:20,549

Omar Baez/NASA Launch Manager: Yeah, the numbers that I saw on the orbits were down to the

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00:03:20,549 --> 00:03:21,549

two-

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00:03:21,549 --> 00:03:27,859

decimal level, which was awesome, considering how far away from the Earth this satellite's

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00:03:27,859 --> 00:03:28,859

at right now.

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00:03:28,859 --> 00:03:32,599

Mike Curie/NASA Launch Commentator: And this is continuing the trend of a 100 percent success

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00:03:32,599 --> 00:03:33,599

rate

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00:03:33,599 --> 00:03:34,599

for the Atlas V launch vehicle.

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00:03:34,599 --> 00:03:36,939

Omar Baez/NASA Launch Manager: Yeah, we say that.

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00:03:36,939 --> 00:03:39,189

But it's always one at a time.

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00:03:39,189 --> 00:03:40,400

And this one was

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00:03:40,400 --> 00:03:43,689

certainly up to its challenges.

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00:03:43,689 --> 00:03:48,409

Hopefully nine months from now we'll have an asset up in space that will

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00:03:48,409 --> 00:03:53,019

help our weather forecasters and what they do on a daily basis and bring them up to the

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00:03:53,019 --> 00:03:54,069

20th century as

77

00:03:54,069 --> 00:04:00,120

far as having almost closed-circuit TV on what the weather's doing from that high up.

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00:04:00,120 --> 00:04:01,139

So, it's fantastic.

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00:04:01,139 --> 00:04:07,549

Mike Curie/NASA Launch Commentator: This is the start of its long mission -- possibly

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00:04:07,549 --> 00:04:08,549

up to 20 years

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00:04:08,549 --> 00:04:15,290

of providing color, high-speed imagery and data back to folks on the Earth to help save

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00:04:15,290 --> 00:04:16,400

lives.

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00:04:16,400 --> 00:04:17,400

So thank

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00:04:17,400 --> 00:04:20,750

you for getting us off the ground today, and thank you once again for your time, Omar.