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00:00:00,149 --> 00:00:05,069

NASA Launch Commentator Joshua Santora: I'm now here with Launch Director NASA Launch Manager Oma

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00:00:05,069 --> 00:00:07,950

Baez: Thank you.

Santora: Does this one have any - does this one

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00:00:07,950 --> 00:00:11,400

feel special or is this just like  
another great launch for Launch Services

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00:00:11,400 --> 00:00:16,109

Program? Baez: It's another great launch  
for the Launch Services Program, but an

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00:00:16,109 --> 00:00:19,560

awesome and great one. This one's been a long time

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00:00:19,560 --> 00:00:28,380

coming. We had some setbacks early on,  
middle last year and and I'm glad that

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00:00:28,380 --> 00:00:34,469

we were able to get this payload up in  
orbit and in a safe condition. We did

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00:00:34,469 --> 00:00:41,340

confirm separation through the  
spacecraft TDRS link. The orbits look

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00:00:41,340 --> 00:00:48,719

fantastic and currently they're power  
positive, so everything looks fantastic

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00:00:48,719 --> 00:00:58,230

for us. And wonderful Pegasus launch and like always a when your launch pad is

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00:00:58,230 --> 00:01:03,480

moving at five, six hundred miles an hour,

things happen, and this time the first

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00:01:03,480 --> 00:01:09,510

attempt got us because we lost positive communication with the aircraft and the

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00:01:09,510 --> 00:01:14,159

ground and and our rule is to abort the flight, go back around and try it again.

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00:01:14,159 --> 00:01:21,570

And we did this once before during the HESSI mission back in 2003 and we were able

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00:01:21,570 --> 00:01:27,450

to execute it flawlessly today. Santora: Does that cause any additional anxiety among the

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00:01:27,450 --> 00:01:30,689

team when you kinda have to racetrack like that? Baez: I don't know about anxiety.

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00:01:30,689 --> 00:01:39,570

This is a fun launch. It's for it - in my operational function, this is about

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00:01:39,570 --> 00:01:45,960

as good as it gets and we enjoy it. The anxiety level is higher, the

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00:01:45,960 --> 00:01:52,320

adrenaline's flowing, but what a cool way to fly. Santora: Yeah absolutely. So thinking about

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00:01:52,320 --> 00:01:55,530

Launch Services Program, obviously this is the name of the game for you guys.

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00:01:55,530 --> 00:02:00,630

What's next, what's coming up? Baez: The next mission for us is the Solar Orbiter

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00:02:00,630 --> 00:02:07,560  
mission, or SolO. It's a  
cooperative with our partners from the

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00:02:07,560 --> 00:02:12,990  
European Space Agency  
and it's another Helio mission. So,

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00:02:12,990 --> 00:02:19,050  
interested in looking at the Sun with  
that one, and we hope to launch it in

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00:02:19,050 --> 00:02:22,290  
early February. Santora: Awesome will you be the launch manager for that one? Baez: That will be

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00:02:22,290 --> 00:02:26,940  
Tim Dunn. Santora: Okay, and your next mission is? Baez: And I will be working Mars 2020 this

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00:02:26,940 --> 00:02:30,510  
summer. Santora: Which is also super high-profile. Obviously we'll get there when we get

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00:02:30,510 --> 00:02:35,400  
there. Baez: Yep. Santora: We've got SolO to go first. Baez: Yep. Santora: But again a big congratulations to

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00:02:35,400 --> 00:02:38,480  
you, Omar, to the entire team. Thanks for  
joining me.

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00:02:38,480 --> 00:02:43,080  
Appreciate you. Also big thanks to  
Malcolm Boston for joining me and riding