

Stiff wind delays NASA launch of solar observatory

February 10 2010, By MARCIA DUNN , AP Aerospace Writer

(AP) -- Gusty wind has forced NASA to delay the launch of its newest solar observatory.

An unmanned Atlas V rocket was supposed to blast off from [Cape Canaveral](#) on Wednesday morning with the Solar Dynamics Observatory. NASA put off the launch for an hour, hoping the wind would ease. But the rocket's systems sensed a wind overload and shut everything down, with just three minutes and 59 seconds left in the countdown.

[NASA](#) says it will try again Thursday to send up the observatory. It's the most advanced probe ever built to study the sun. Scientists want to better understand the violent [solar activity](#) that causes communication and power disruptions on Earth.

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