

NASA launch of twin science satellites delayed

August 24 2012, by MARCIA DUNN



Screen capture from NASA TV of the Atlas V carrying RBSP on the launch pad at the time of the announcement that the launch would be scrubbed. Credit: NASA TV

(AP)—NASA has delayed the launch of its newest science satellites.

The countdown proceeded all the way down to the four-minute mark early Friday morning at Cape Canaveral in Florida. But a problem

cropped up with the rocket's tracking beacon, a mandatory safety item.

NASA tentatively is aiming for another launch attempt Saturday for the [Radiation Belt](#) Storm Probes—provided the problem can be fixed quickly. Launch director Tim Dunn says engineers need to determine whether the problem is with the beacon itself or ground equipment.

The twin satellites aboard the Atlas V rocket are designed to study Earth's radiation belts. Scientists say the spacecraft will improve [space weather](#) forecasting. [Solar storms](#) can damage spacecraft and disrupt life on Earth.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: NASA launch of twin science satellites delayed (2012, August 24) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-08-nasa-twin-science-satellites.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.