

Juno team begins powering up science instruments

July 8 2016



Animation of Juno 14-day Orbits Starting in Late 2016. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

The engineers and scientists working on NASA's Juno mission have been busying themselves, getting their newly arrived Jupiter orbiter ready for operations around the largest planetary inhabitant in the solar system. Juno successfully entered Jupiter's orbit during a 35-minute engine burn on Monday, July 4. Confirmation that the burn had completed was

received on Earth at 8:53 pm. PDT (11:53 p.m. EDT) that evening.

As planned, the spacecraft returned to high-rate communications on July 5 and powered up five of its [science instruments](#) on July 6. Per the mission plan, the remaining science instruments will be powered up before the end of the month. Juno's science instruments had been turned off in the days leading up to Jupiter orbit insertion.

The Juno team has scheduled a short [trajectory correction maneuver](#) on July 13 to refine the orbit around Jupiter.

"Prior to launch five years ago we planned a date and time for the Jupiter orbit insertion burn and the team nailed it," said Rick Nybakken, project manager for Juno from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "We are in our planned 53.4 day orbit. Now we are focusing on preparing for our fourth and final main engine burn, which will put us in our 14-day science orbit on October 19."

The next time Juno's orbit carries it close by the planet will be on Aug. 27. The flyby is expected to provide some preliminary science data.

"We had to turn all our beautiful instruments off to help ensure a successful Jupiter orbit insertion on July 4," said Scott Bolton, Juno principal investigator from the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. "But next time around we will have our eyes and ears open. You can expect us to release some information about our findings around September 1."

The Juno spacecraft launched on Aug. 5, 2011, from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

More information: More information on the Juno mission is available at www.nasa.gov/juno

Provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory

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