

Video: NASA's OSIRIS-REx celebrates perfect departure maneuver from asteroid Bennu

June 4 2021, by Rani Gran



On Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020, NASA's OSIRIS-REx sample collection mission performed a successful "Touch-And-Go" (TAG) maneuver. Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft is 328,000 miles, or 528,000 kilometers, away from the asteroid Bennu, having fired its engines on May 10 to initiate a return trip to Earth. The spacecraft is on track to deliver an asteroid sample to Earth on September 24, 2023.

Mission engineers had planned to do a small thruster firing last week to ensure the [spacecraft](#) stays on the correct path back to Earth. But, the May 10 departure maneuver was calculated and executed so precisely, the mission team decided not to do a clean-up maneuver last week.

The next possible maneuver adjustment could occur in 2022.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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