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