



Special Countdown Issue

8 Days to Launch!

SORCE Mission Activity –

Still on schedule! The SORCE launch remains set for January 25 from Kennedy Space Center (KSC), with the launch scheduled for 3:10 p.m. Eastern Time, 1:10 p.m. Mountain Time.

The latest milestone was the fairing installation, which was completed Wednesday this week. This was the last opportunity to see or handle SORCE. Following is a pictorial sequence of events. It took approximately 2 days to install and finalize the fairing or clamshell around the SORCE payload.



Protective solar array covers are removed prior to starting the installation process. In the foreground in the lower right corner, you can see the other side of the clamshell.

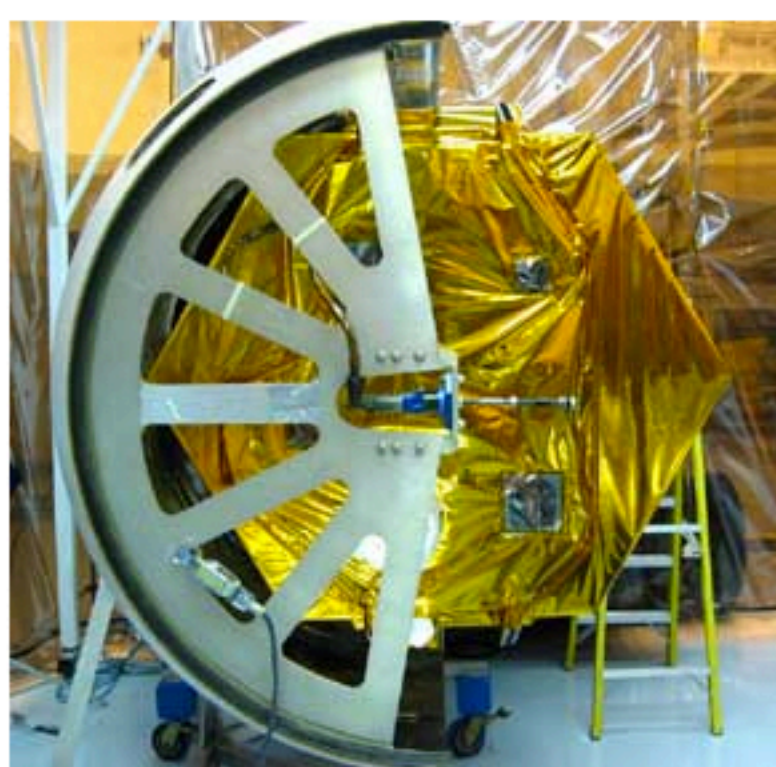
Tentative Dates for Upcoming Events:

- 1/20/03 Launch Rehearsal (KSC)
- 1/21/03 Flight Readiness Review (KSC)
- 1/22/03 SORCE/Pegasus Transported to Hot Pad
- 1/24/03 Launch Readiness Reviews (GSFC/KSC)
- 1/25/03 SORCE Launch (KSC)



Right side of the fairing installation is complete and the LASP crew stops for a photo opportunity. Left to right: Heather Reed, Mike Anfinson, Rick Kohnert, and David Gathright.

In another few days the integrated Pegasus and spacecraft will be transported to the hot pad, located next to the runway. Until then, the team will finalize mechanical check of the rocket assembly, making sure that everything that has happened over the last few days is perfect.



Right fairing installation is complete.



The left side is being installed. The instrument apertures shown on SORCE are SOLSTICE A & B (top right and middle left), TIM (bottom right), SIM (top left), and XPS (reflective face in lower left).



Spacecraft battery trickle charge cable and nitrogen purge tube are attached until transport.



Getting closer... Positioning the right and left fairing halves before closure.



And one last peek before closing the fairing.

For people interested in viewing the SORCE launch, but are unable to be at KSC or LASP on January 25, there are options. NASA TV will be covering the SORCE launch beginning approximately one hour before the Pegasus rocket is dropped. Coverage should begin about 12:00 noon MST, when the L-1011 aircraft carrier takes off and begins the climb to reach the 40,000 foot elevation necessary to drop the Pegasus. For more specific information, check the NASA television schedule at <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/nasatv/schedule.html>. The live coverage will include video as seen from a chase plane that will travel along side the L-1011 until after the Pegasus drop. Once dropped, the Pegasus will be out of view within 70 seconds.

NASA TV is serviced by several World Wide Web sources. To find out what internet companies are covering NASA TV, go to: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>, where there is a listing of the web sources. Windows Media Player is installed on most Windows-based PCs, so the best web source for this access is NASA Spaceflight Web, <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/nasatv/index.html>. If you need additional information on how to view the launch via the internet, e-mail Vanessa George at vanessa.george@lasp.colorado.edu or visit the LASP SORCE web page – <http://lasp.colorado.edu/sorce>.