



## Special Countdown Issue

**1 Day to Launch!**

### SORCE Mission Activity –

SORCE has successfully completed the Launch Readiness Review, which took place at 9:00 a.m. EST this morning. After reviewing the overall launch plan, all systems are GO! Launch remains set for Saturday, January 25 from Kennedy Space Center (KSC). There is a 58-minute window for the launch to occur beginning at 3:10 p.m. EST, 1:10 p.m. MST. If for any reason the launch needs to be delayed on Saturday, there is a second launch window on Sunday, January 26, with the same launch time.

Weather is one issue that decision makers need to consider. In spite of the uncharacteristically cold temperatures that Florida is experiencing today, this will not affect the SORCE launch in any way. At this time, there is a very, very limited chance (10%) that weather could delay the SORCE launch.



According to weather.com, Cape Canaveral is forecasted to be 58 degrees F (at noon), winds from the N-NE at 9 mph, mostly sunny with scattered clouds, 0% precipitation, and 53% maximum humidity for Saturday, January 25, 2003.

There was a SORCE Press Conference at KSC early Friday afternoon at KSC. The televised NASA production was



Photo by David Gathright.

informative and it gave reporters a chance to ask important questions relating to the SORCE and what NASA hopes to accomplish with this Earth Observing System mission. Along with Orbital and NASA officials, Gary Rottman was part of the panel fielding questions from the press.

Launch day operations at the Hot Pad will begin at 7:00 a.m. EST, Saturday, January 25th. The payload and launch vehicle support teams will assemble at 6:30 a.m. EST to power on the spacecraft for final checkout.



### Estimated Times (EST) for Events:

- 1/24, 9:00 am Launch Readiness Reviews (KSC)
- 1/24, 11:00 am NASA Press Briefing (KSC)
- 1/25, 2:00 pm NASA Television Coverage Begins
- 1/25, 2:12 pm L-1011 takes off
- 1/25, 3:14 pm SORCE Launch
- 1/25, 3:14 pm 1st Stage Ignites
- 1/25, 3:15 pm 2nd Stage Ignites
- 1/25, 3:21 pm 3rd Stage Ignites
- 1/25, 3:24 pm Spacecraft Separation
- 1/25, 3:25 pm First signal from SORCE
- 1/25, 3:45 pm First contact (high data rate)
- 2/25 Beginning of science operations
- 3/25 Release of first science data

The launch begins with the drop of the Pegasus rocket from the L-1011 over the Atlantic Ocean at an altitude of 39,000 feet at a location approximately 100 miles offshore from KSC. After falling a few seconds, the spacecraft's engines will power on and lift it into orbit. Spacecraft separation from the Pegasus occurs approximately 10 minutes after the initial drop. At that time the satellite will be in an orbit of 400 statute miles at a 40-degree inclination, orbiting the Earth 15 times each day.

Reminder – For those interested in viewing the live coverage of the launch on the internet, 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>, for a listing of the web sources. If you do not have Real Player, the best web source for viewing NASA TV is NASA Spaceflight Web. They use Windows Media Player, which is installed on most Windows-based PCs and is free of charge. The website is <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/nasatv/index.html>. The SORCE website is also an excellent source for the information you need – <http://lasp.colorado.edu/sorce>.

