Langley Center Delays Launching Of Air Density-Injun Explorer-B

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's first attempt to put two scientific satellites into orbit with a single shot was delayed indefinitely Wednesday when a pre-launch check-out discovered trouble in the spacecraft.

Managed by Langley Research Center and named Air Density-Injun Explorer-B, the dual satellite was to have been sent aloft from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., between 7:40 and 7:50 a.m. Pacific Standard Time (10:40 and 11:50 a.m. EST) today. A four-stage Atlas rocket, also designed by Langley-managed is the chosen launch vehicle.

The dual satellite is designed to investigate density and radiation characteristics of the upper atmosphere, from 300 to 1,500 miles altitude. Injun Explorer carries 16 radiation-sensing devices and a probe holding the coded Air Density Explorer, a 12-foot balloon which will be released, inflated and released in orbit.

A NASA spokesman said the cause of the malfunction was being investigated Wednesday afternoon. No new date has been chosen for the launch.

THE U.S. SPACE Agency has confirmed that a satellite called Explorer 23 is in orbit. The satellite was launched today from Wallops Island, Va. Scientists turned on equipment aboard the spacecraft by radio command signals from the ground and reported that all units were operating successfully. The purpose of the launching is to gather information about the dangers from meteoroids in space.

SECOND BRITISH SATELLITE LAUNCHED

A U.S.-built Scout rocket streaks skyward with a British-built geophysics satellite aboard at Wallops Island. Shortly after the spacecraft achieved a 900-mile-high orbit, Sir Harry Massey, chairman of the British National Committee on Space Research, said the new satellite will be known as Ariel II. Selection of the name was a foregone conclusion since the first of the series was named.

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