NASA To Orbit ESRO Satellite For Europeans

ESRO-IV, a scientific spacecraft designed and built in Europe, is scheduled to be launched on a Scout launch vehicle from the Western Test Range in California Monday.

The 236-pound satellite will carry six scientific and technological experiments that will investigate and measure several phenomena in the Polar ionosphere, a region of high ion density that begins in the upper atmosphere and extends to an indefinite height in space.

NASA's Langley Research Center has management responsibility for the Scout launch vehicle program.

The Scout-D is a four-stage, solid-fuel rocket system. Scout and the ESRO-IV spacecraft will be set on an initial launch azimuth of 183.131 degrees to obtain a retrograde orbit.

ESRO-IV will be launched under an agreement which provides that NASA will furnish launching and associated services to the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) on a reimbursable basis.

ESRO members are Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Scientific measurements made by the satellite will be concentrated over Northern Europe to correlate ground-based Polar ionosphere observations and simultaneous measurements made with sounding rockets launched from Kiruna, Sweden.