Making final checks...At ignition, each camera showed a second station containing a timer. Then, if the particle penetrated, the timer is stopped. The time interval between penetration of the two layers is a known distance apart permits scientists to determine the velocity of the entering particle.

The launch was the 79th for the Scout in its dozen years of performing missions for the United States and a number of foreign nations and was the vehicle’s 24th success in a row.

'Scout Really Scoots' by Paul Bower

If you haven’t witnessed a Scout launch and are used to seeing the big Apollo Saturn V’s inch off the launcher on TV, one word of advice: When the flight conductor gets to T minus one and counting, don’t blink.

To give you an idea of how fast a Scout leaves the pad, at T minus two seconds my four automatic remote cameras began firing. To give you an idea of how fast a Scout leaves the pad, at T minus two seconds my four automatic remote cameras began firing. Here is his account,

Bower, witnessing his first Scout launch, was impressed by the smoothness of VMSC and NASA operations and a number of other things, but one thing came as something of a surprise: Scout’s speed. Here is his account.

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