The eighth in a series of development flights of the Scout launch vehicle is planned in the near future by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the NASA Wallops Station, Wallops Island, Virginia.

Primary purpose of the suborbital flight will be to give NASA scientists another opportunity to study the performance of the Scout launch vehicle.

The four-stage Scout, flown on the first in a series of development flights on July 1, 1960, has been under development at the NASA Langley Research Center since mid-1958 to provide the United States with a small, reliable and flexible research vehicle for a variety of space exploration tasks.

As a secondary project in connection with the development flight, Langley scientists will conduct an experiment to measure aerodynamic heating during reentry at speeds approaching those to be reached by manned spacecraft returning from lunar missions.

After launch from Wallops Island, the first two Scout stages will propel the remaining three stages to an altitude of about 135 statute miles. As the vehicle reaches the peak of its trajectory and begins to nose over, the third, fourth and fifth stages fire in rapid succession to drive the payload into the atmosphere at a speed of about 19,000 miles an hour.