Obtain Valuable Data in First Scout Launching

NASA launched the first Scout rocket vehicle (right) from Wallops Island July 1 as part of a program to develop a small, reliable and flexible solid-fuel research vehicle designed for a variety of space exploration tasks.

Three stages of the four-stage vehicle were fired successfully. Ignition of the first, second and third stages occurred as programmed. Ignition of the fourth stage was prevented by a command signal from Wallops at a height of about 14,000 feet. This signal was given as a safety precaution when, at this height, the vehicle appeared to veer off course. The third and fourth stages, which remained together as programmed, reached an altitude of at least 560 miles and landed in the Atlantic Ocean approximately 1,500 miles from Wallops.

NASA officials reported that excellent telemetry was obtained throughout the flight— the first firing of three controlled solid propellant stages.

Purpose of the flight was to determine the performance, structural integrity and environmental conditions of the vehicle and the guidance-system instrumentation in the vehicle telemetry flight test data to ground receiving stations.

The first Scout was essentially a prototype. The experience gained during the launching operation and flight will be applied in the future to improve performance of the 36,100-pound space research vehicle.

Scout consists of the Algol, Castor, Andromeda, and Altair rocket motors—all named for stars in the constellations. Scout is the latest in a series of multi-stage, solid fuel research rockets developed under direction of the Langley Center.

The Scout concept originated in mid-1958 at Langley in what is now the Applied Materials and Physics Division. A special Scout project group under William E. Stoney Jr. is in charge of development of the vehicle. The group is located in offices of the former Impact Basin in the West Area. James R. Hall was Project Engineer for the July 1 launching.

Operational flights of the Scout will be conducted from Wallops. As an operational vehicle, Scout will be able to place a 150-pound probe into an orbit more than 325 miles above the earth and will loft a 50-pound scientific probe to an altitude of about 10,000 miles.

In reentry body tests, Scout will permit simulation of conditions expected by a space vehicle returning to the earth's atmosphere. With a ballistic trajectory, it also will be possible to obtain two hours of zero-gravity environment with 100-pound experiments.

During development and test phases of Scout, NASA's Scout Project Group at Langley is acting as systems manager. There are a number of prime contractors and vendors participating in the program.

WANTED: Alternate driver from vicinity of Southampton to E.A. on 8 shift. Pierpont, 2292.

There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun. --Pablo Picasso

It is easy to stand a pain but difficult to stand an itch. --Chinese Proverb

Nature has no outline, but imagination has. --William Blake

There are times when parenthood seems nothing but feeding the mouth that bites you. --Peter De Vries

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Included among eight Langley illustrations in the article:

A reentry vehicle being installed for investigation in the 8-foot transonic wind tunnel.

A leading edge section of a reentry vehicle being exposed to high temperatures in a hot jet at the structures laboratory.

The 100-foot inflatable satellite and other inflatable and erectable space vehicles under study here.

A tilting wing vertical take-off-landing (VTOL) model in the 100-foot wind tunnel.

An early version of a possible supersonic transport.

Of these and other activities, National Geographic says: NASA has organized "one of the broadest research and development programs ever undertaken in any country."

FOR SALE: Standard size crankshaft for 1951-52 Chevrolet with straight shift. Silver, CH 51387.

FOR SALE: Male Boxer, 11-months old, has shots and license — $25. Knight, PA 2-7342.