SCOUT SETS LAUNCH VEHICLE RECORD

Hampton, Va. - The Scout launch vehicle, pride of NASA's Langley Research Center, set a new record Tuesday, November 21, when its twenty-seventh consecutive successful launch placed the ESRO-IV satellite into Earth orbit.

The record-setting launch, made from NASA's Western Test Range in California, was also the second of three Scout-D launches scheduled within a three-week period. The SAS-B satellite was launched from Italy's San Marco platform off the east coast of Africa, November 15, and West Germany's AEROS satellite will be launched from California on December 8.

If successful, that launch will push Scout's record to 28 successes in a row. There will have been a total of 55 Scout launches after the December mission.

Last Tuesday's ESRO-IV spacecraft was launched by NASA for the European Space Research Organization (ESRO). The satellite carried 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.
The December 8 launch will place four German and one U.S. experiments into a near-Polar orbit, aboard the AEROS spacecraft, to investigate the varied physical processes that take place in the upper layers of the Earth's atmosphere.

The Small Astronomy Satellite (SAS-B), launched November 15, from San Marco, is being used for a detailed study of the sources of gamma rays. Better knowledge of these rays will help scientists understand the major energy transfer mechanisms that occur in the universe.

The three Scout-D launches have kept Langley Center managers and engineers busier than usual during the past several weeks, traveling not only across the United States, but half-way around the world to the Italian-operated San Marco launch site, located off the coast of the Republic of Kenya.

At the San Marco launch were Samuel J. Ailor, assistant head of Langley's Scout Project Office; Lee R. Foster, Jr., operations engineer; Willard L. Sullivan, fluid systems; Ralph P. Parks, electrical systems; and Larry R. Tant, Scout payload coordinator. On hand before the launch were Clyde W. Winters, head of launch operations, and Rodney L. Duncan, operations engineer.

Traveling to California's Western Test Range for the ESRO-IV launch were Roland D. English, head of the Scout Office; S. J. Ailor; Joseph B. Talbot, Scout payload coordinator; R. L. Duncan; Patrick H. Shea, mechanical systems; Azusa Yamamoto, electronics systems; Thomas L. Owens, fluid systems; and Phil Everhart, quality control.
The Scout launch vehicle was conceived at the Langley Research Center in 1958, to provide the U. S. with a reliable and economical vehicle for many space missions: orbital, probe and reentry.

First launched in July 1960, Scout has been used for more than 80 missions for NASA and other U. S. agencies, plus several foreign countries, including France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the ten-nation European Space Research Organization (ESRO).

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