

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SORCE PRESS KIT
January 2003



Public Affairs Contacts for the **SORCE Earth Sciences Mission**

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NASA's Earth Science Enterprise is dedicated to understanding the Earth as an integrated system and applying Earth system science to improve prediction of climate, weather, and natural hazards using the vantage point of space.

Media Services Information

NASA Television Transmission

NASA Television is broadcast on the satellite GE-2, transponder 9C, C band, 85 degrees west longitude, frequency 3880.0 MHz, vertical polarization, audio monaural at 6.8 MHz. On launch day, television coverage will begin at 2 p.m. EST and continue through spacecraft separation. The schedule for television transmissions for the SORCE launch will be available on the NASA Television homepage at <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv/>.

Audio

Audio only commentary from the launch will be available on the NASA TV Voice circuits that may be reached by dialing 321-867-1220, 1240, 1260, 7135, 4003, 4920.

Webcasting

A live webcast of the launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., will be available at

<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov>

Briefings

The pre-launch readiness press briefing is scheduled for January 24 at 2 p.m. EST. The press briefing will be held at KSC in the press site auditorium. Additional information will be sent in a Note to Editors.

For information on launch accreditation call the Kennedy Space Center News Center at 321/867-2468 or fax the following information on official letterhead to:

Accreditations Secretary
NASA-KSC News Center
321/867-2692.

Full Name
Birthdate
Social Security Number
U.S. Citizen Yes/No

News Center/Status Reports

The SORCE News Center at KSC will open on January 23 and may be reached at (321) 867-2468.

Internet Information

More information on the SORCE mission, including an electronic copy of this press kit, press releases, fact sheets, status reports and images, can be found at:

<http://lasp.colorado.edu/sorce>

or

<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/2003/0106sorce.html>

SORCE Quick Facts

Launch Date/Time-January 25, 2003/3:14 p.m. EST

Spacecraft Dimensions

Stowed: 39.4 inches (100 centimeters) wide x 63.1 inches (160.3 centimeters) high

Deployed: 133.6 inches (339.3 centimeters) wide x 63.1 inches (160.3 centimeters) high

Weight at launch: 632.7 pounds (287 kilograms)

Power: 348 watts of electric power from solar array

Orbit: 397.8 miles (640 kilometers)

Mission Lifetime: Five years (six-year design goal)

Science Instruments:

The four instruments on SORCE are the Total Irradiance Monitor (TIM), the Spectral Irradiance Monitor (SIM), Solar Stellar Irradiance Comparison Experiment (SOLSTICE) and the Extreme Ultraviolet Photometer System (XPS).

TIM, SIM and SOLSTICE will measure solar irradiance and the solar spectrum to help scientists understand the Sun's role in climate change. The XPS will measure high-energy radiation from the Sun.

Launch Site: Kennedy Space Center/Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

Launch Vehicle: Pegasus XL

Launch Day - January 25

2:12 p.m EST -- L1011 Takes off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

3:14 pm EST -- Pegasus launches (beginning of 58-minute launch window)

Launch + 646 seconds (slightly over ten minutes after launch) -- SORCE spacecraft separation

Launch + 653 seconds -- First Acquisition of SORCE Signal

Launch + 30 days - Beginning of science operations

Launch + 60 days – Release of 1st data

Cost: Spacecraft, Instruments, Launch Vehicle & Five Years of Operations = \$122 million

Spacecraft Builder/Integrator: Orbital Sciences Corporation

Instruments Builder: University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric Space Physics

Launch Vehicle/Operations: NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

Mission Management: University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric Space Physics

Management and scientific oversight and engineering support: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Acquisition, management, processing, and distribution of the science data: University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics