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Space Tracking Surveillance System's Demonstration Program Ships Second Satellite to Cape Canaveral

The Missile Defense Agency announced that the final STSS Demo Program satellite arrived safely June 25 on the launch site at Cape Canaveral, Florida. It joins its sister satellite, which shipped at the end of April and has completed much of its pre-launch testing, in preparation for a fall launch.

The two satellites, developed under direction of the MDA, will work in tandem, viewing the same target to provide 3-D stereo tracking capability. The on-board sensors are designed to track missiles through all phases of flight – boost, midcourse and terminal – and perform hit assessments after engagement.

Shipment of the satellite comes after an extensive test program to prove it was ready for the harsh launch and space environments. Additionally, the sensor suite underwent testing to ensure it will meet its sensitivity and agility requirements once on-orbit. MDA's space element, located at Los Angeles Air Force Base, managed and coordinated the test activity.

Currently, the satellites are planned for a fall launch atop a NASA Delta-II rocket. Command and control of the satellites will be run from the MDA's Integration and Operations Center located at Schriever AFB, Colorado. After launch, on-orbit testing will include both aircraft and missile targets.

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