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Countdown Report for the X-ray Astronomy Satellite "ASTRO-H" launch on H-IIA Launch Vehicle Flight No.30

Final countdown status of H-IIA Flight F30 carrying X-ray Astronomy Satellite "ASTRO-H" will be reported.

* Please reload this page for the latest on the launch.

February 17, 2016 17:59 JST
Separation of "ASTRO-H" confirmed

The separation of "ASTRO-H" has been confirmed.

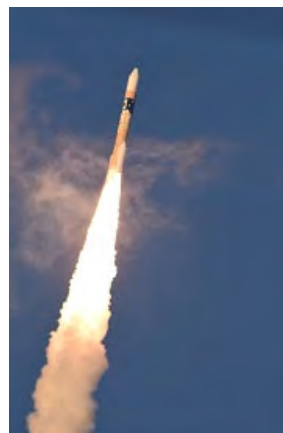
February 17, 2016 17:45 JST
Liftoff

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) has launched the H-IIA Launch Vehicle No. 30 carrying X-ray Astronomy Satellite "ASTRO-H" at 17:45 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2016 JST from the Tanegashima Space Center.



< Click image to enlarge >

Liftoff of H-IIA F30 (1)



< Click image to enlarge >

Liftoff of H-IIA F30 (2)

February 17, 2016 17:40 JST
Automatic countdown sequence to start

It is 4 minutes and 40 seconds before liftoff. The automatic countdown sequence has started.

February 17, 2016 17:15 JST
X-30 minutes

It is 30 minutes before launch.

February 17, 2016 16:45 JST
X-60 minutes

It is 60 minutes before launch. The final countdown operation has started.



< Click image to enlarge >

H-IIA F30 - Final countdown operation has started

February 17, 2016 16:39 JST
Third Go/No Go Decision

The green light has been given to the X-60 minutes terminal countdown operation.

February 17, 2016 15:57 JST
Attitude control system flight slew test completed

The second attitude control system flight slew test has been completed.

February 17, 2016 14:04 JST
Radio frequency system checked up

The radio frequency system between H-IIA F30 and the ground stations has been checked up.

February 17, 2016 13:55 JST
First stage and second stage liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen tanks fully loaded

It has been confirmed that the first- and second-stage liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen tanks have been fully loaded.



< Click image to enlarge >

H-IIA F30 - Both liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen tanks fully loaded

February 17, 2016 12:44 JST

Attitude control system flight slew test completed

By running programs of the guidance and control system mounted on H-IIA F30, it has been confirmed that all devices for flight attitude control are working as expected.

February 17, 2016 10:38 JST

Access restrictions to start within a radius of 3,000 meters from launch pad.

Access will now be restricted within a radius of 3,000 meters from the launch pad.

February 17, 2016 09:20 JST

Terminal countdown operation to start

Terminal countdown operation has started. Access will now be restricted within a radius of 400 meters from the launch pad.



< Click image to enlarge >

Terminal countdown operation has started

February 17, 2016 09:15 JST

Second Go/No Go Decision '-Go'

Final checks have been made for operational conditions of the launch vehicle, satellites, launch facilities, and tracking and control systems, as well as weather conditions. We now have gotten a go-ahead for loading the propellant, such as liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen, into the launch vehicle. Propellant loading preparations are going to start.

February 17, 2016 05:39 JST

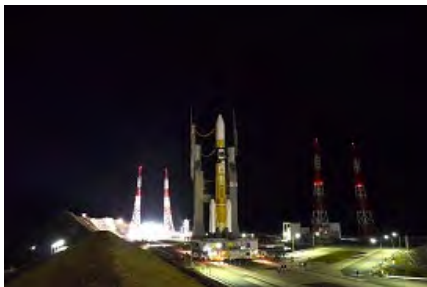
H-IIA F30 to arrive at launch pad

H-IIA F30 has arrived at the launch pad. The launch vehicle is going to be connected to the pad facilities.



< Click image to enlarge >

Snapshot of launch site



< Click image to enlarge >

H-IIA F30 on the way to launch pad



< Click image to enlarge >

H-IIA F30 has arrived at launch pad

February 17, 2016 05:14 JST

H-IIA F30 on the way to launch pad

H-IIA F30 carrying "ASTRO-H" has left for the launch pad. H-IIA F30, mounted on a mobile launcher, will travel approximately 500 meters from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the launch pad. This will take about 30 minutes.

February 17, 2016 01:33 JST

First Go/No Go Decision -'Go'

This is an updated launch countdown report on the X-ray Astronomy Satellite "ASTRO-H", which will be launched using the H-IIA No. 30 Launch Vehicle (H-IIA F30). After the weather conditions checked out, the green light has been given for H-IIA F30 carrying "ASTRO-H" to leave the Vehicle Assembly Building for the launch pad. The scheduled launch time is Feb. 17, 2016 17:45 p.m. JST.

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