



Date: June 11, 2008
To: All ULA Teammates



Photo by Carleton Bailie.

Congratulations on another successful launch!

Congratulations to the ULA team on the successful launch of the Gamma-ray Large Area Telescope (GLAST) mission!

A Delta II Heavy lifted off today carrying the latest major space observatory, the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST). For the next five years, GLAST will study the most energetic particles of light, observing physical processes far beyond the capabilities of earthbound laboratories. Studying these high-energy objects and events with the advanced technologies of GLAST could give us a greatly expanded understanding of our universe, revealing unanticipated phenomena and unveiling the mysteries of the high-energy universe.

GLAST will have the ability to detect gamma-rays in a range of energies from thousands to hundreds of billions of times more energetic than the light visible to the human eye. Because of their tremendous energy, gamma rays travel through the universe largely unobstructed. This means GLAST will be able to observe gamma-ray sources near the edge of the visible universe. Gamma-rays detected by GLAST will originate near the otherwise obscured central regions of exotic objects like supermassive black holes, pulsars and gamma-ray bursts.

GLAST is the fifth successful Delta II Heavy launched, and the first with a 10 ft. composite fairing. GLAST was launched under the NASA Launch Services contract, the tenth successful mission under this contract for NASA Kennedy Space Center. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center managed this mission with collaboration from the U.S. Department of Energy and international partners from France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Sweden. General Dynamics was the spacecraft builder.

Thank you to the entire team for your outstanding efforts through a very challenging launch campaign. Your dedication and professionalism are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Michael Gass
President & CEO

Dan Collins
COO



Photo credit: NASA/Jim Grossmann