

February 11, 2010

To: All ULA Teammates  
From: Michael Gass and Dan Collins  
Subject: Congratulations on the Successful Launch of Atlas V SDO!



### **Congratulations on another successful launch!**

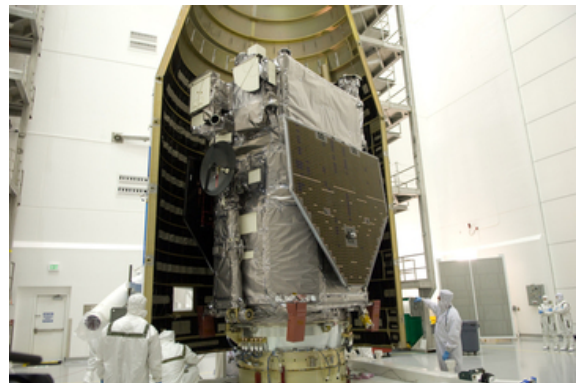
Congratulations to the entire ULA team on today's successful launch of the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). An Atlas V 401 lifted off this morning from Space Launch Complex-41, placing the 3,200 kg observatory into a geosynchronous transfer orbit. Following checkout and a series of orbit raising maneuvers, SDO will begin its five year science mission from geosynchronous orbit.

SDO was built by NASA Goddard and is the first mission of NASA's Living with a Star program. It will help scientists study processes inside and on the sun that have a profound effect on Earth and near-Earth space. The mission will study how the Sun's magnetic field is generated, and how stored magnetic energy is released in the form of solar wind, energetic particles, and variations in solar irradiance. SDO's goal is to understand, to the point of being able to predict, solar variations that influence life on Earth and affect humanity's technological systems including satellites and electrical power grids.

SDO was the 38<sup>th</sup> ULA launch in 38 months, and the 100<sup>th</sup> launch of Atlas/Centaur since the inception of the commercial Atlas program. The first commercial Atlas launch in 1990 was also performed for NASA, lofting the Combined Release and Radiation Effects Satellite (CRRES) into low earth orbit.

The AV-021 booster carried names of more than 150 Final Assembly Building employees from our Denver facility who have supported Atlas and Centaur assembly over the last ten years.

Today, ULA has earned the trust placed in us by NASA's Launch Services Program in successfully orbiting this irreplaceable observatory. This is a customer expectation, but not an easy feat as there are endless details that must be properly addressed by process and attention-to-detail to execute a successful mission. We applaud your focus on mission success for SDO, as well as your continued attention to product and process reliability improvements on our journey to Perfect Product Delivery.



Sincerely,

/s/

Michael C. Gass  
President & CEO

/s/

Daniel J. Collins  
COO