Boeing Delta II Rocket Poised to Place U.S. Air Force Satellite into Orbit

The first Delta II of 2001 stands poised to launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The Boeing [NYSE: BA] launch vehicle will lift into orbit a Global Positioning System satellite.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, a 28-minute-long launch window opens at 2:43 a.m. EST. Twenty-five minutes after liftoff, the Delta II will insert a replacement GPS satellite into a transfer orbit above the Earth.

"We not only placed the original GPS satellites into orbit, but we continue to partner with the Air Force by launching the replacement satellites," says Will Hampton, director of Air Force Delta programs. "The continuing success of this program testifies of the proven manufacturing and launch operations processes used by Boeing and the Air Force."

Boeing has been involved in the Air Force's GPS program since 1974, when the company won contracts to build developmental satellites and receiver sets. A contract in 1987 with the Air Force to launch GPS satellites reactivated the Delta manufacturing line and resulted in the introduction of the Delta II rocket.

Boeing is currently working on design, development and production of the third generation of GPS satellites.

Boeing Delta Web Site: www.boeing.com/delta

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