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Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

Mission Overview

Spacecraft + Instruments

Science + Technology

Education + Outreach

The LRO Mission

- + Spacecraft and Instruments
- + CRaTER
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- + Spacecraft Assembly Blog

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Spacecraft Assembly

The Launch Site

March 23, 2009

It has been a busy 5 weeks at the launch site! We have confirmed that all of the instruments are still performing well, and we have checked their alignments. We have tested all of the spacecraft avionics, including a radio frequency compatibility test with one of our ground stations. And we have run days of testing with our operations center. The thermal team has checked the blankets and adjusted them as necessary. We have one major rehearsal left before stowing the solar array and high gain antenna, fueling, and closing out the test panels for launch.

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Here's the mechanical team in front of the Orbiter at the Astrotech facility where we are doing the final checkouts.



The Orbiter is on the turn-over fixture. We use this device to point the instruments toward the floor, so we can check the optical instruments.



With the X-axis horizontal, we rotated to various positions for the blanket work. Here the team guides all of the cabling during a rotation.



The RF absorber wall on the right is used during the Mini-RF testing.



The Atlas V fairing for LRO arrives at Astrotech.



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