



Thursday, July 29 - 1976

NOAA-5, the Nation's newest operational weather satellite, lifts off KSC's Western Launch Operations Division's launch complex 2 West aboard a two-stage Delta launch vehicle at 10:07 a.m., PDT. Launched by NASA for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the 749-pound spacecraft is now in a near circular orbit of 939.89 by 934.98 statute miles, circling the Earth every 116.322 minutes, inclined 102.105 degrees to the Equator. NOAA-5 is the fifth in this series of weather or environmental spacecraft placed in orbit for NOAA. The new satellite will provide visible and infrared images of cloud cover, snow, ice, the sea surface and information on atmospheric moisture and temperatures. In addition it is expected to be useful in search and rescue missions by the Coast Guard and the Civil Air Patrol; for commercial fishermen and even for such things as water resource management.