A graphic for the Delta II NASA Deep Impact mission. At the top left, there are four grey squares and a cyan arrow pointing left with the word "SELECT" next to it. The main title "DELTA DEEP IMPACT" is displayed in large, bold letters, with "DELTA" in white and "DEEP IMPACT" in red. To the right of the title is a red digital timer showing "00:00:00". Below the timer are logos for the University of Maryland, NASA, Ball Aerospace, JPL, a blue triangle with the Roman numeral "II", and Boeing. On the left side, there is a stylized image of a comet or impactor with a bright orange and yellow core and a long blue and white tail. The background is black with a faint blue grid pattern.

Media Kit

This site requires a JavaScript-enabled browser and uses Flash for both animation and navigation. To get the full benefit of the [Boeing Web Site](#), you will need to download and install the latest version of the [Flash player](#), then return to view the [site](#).

You can still view a non-Flash web page by clicking on the links below.

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PHOTO GALLERY



Previous Scientific missions



Swift, 20 November, 2004

A Boeing Delta II rocket launched NASA's Swift observatory, which will monitor gamma-ray bursts believed to accompany the formation of black holes in space. Swift was launched by a Delta II 7320-10C vehicle. Liftoff occurred at 12:17 p.m. EST from Space Launch Complex 17A, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.



Gravity Probe-B, 20 April, 2004

Gravity Probe B, a NASA satellite that will validate two key aspects of Einstein's general theory of relativity, was launched today aboard a Boeing Delta II rocket. The Delta II lifted off at 9:57:24 a.m. PDT from Space Launch Complex 2W at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.



MER-A, 10 June, 2003

A Boeing Delta II rocket successfully delivered to space NASA's Mars Exploration Rover-A, also named *Spirit*, that launched at an instantaneous window of 1:58:47 p.m. EDT from Space Launch Complex 17A, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The rover landed on Mars in early January, 2004.



MER-B, 7 July, 2003

Opportunity, the second of two NASA rovers that will land on Mars, was launched by a Boeing Delta II launch vehicle from Space Launch Complex 17B, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. Liftoff occurred at 11:18:15 p.m. EDT. Approximately 80 minutes into the flight, *Opportunity*, or Mars Exploration Rover (MER)-B, was deployed in its proper trajectory and landed on Mars Jan. 25, 2004.



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VIDEO



Delta II Rocks!

200 56 28



Delta II Rolls!!

200 56 28



Delta II-Eye-View!

200



.rpm files require Realplayer plug-in installed for viewing



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Deep Impact

Delta Launch Vehicle Programs



Deep Impact Science Objective

Comets are time capsules that hold clues about the formation and evolution of the solar system. Their nuclei are composed of ice and dust, which are debris from the solar system's earliest and coldest formation period – 4.5 billion years ago. It is the evaporation of the ice into gas and the dragging of dust by the gas that makes the head and tail of the comet we normally see.

While several spacecraft have observed the exterior of comets, none have penetrated the surface to answer the fundamental question, “What’s deep inside?” **Deep Impact**, a NASA Discovery Mission, is the first space mission to probe beneath the surface of a comet and reveal the secrets of its interior.

Deep Impact Science Objective (continued)

Tempel 1, the target comet for **Deep Impact**, was discovered in 1867 by Ernst Tempel. It has made many passages through the inner solar system, orbiting the Sun every 5.5 years. This makes Tempel 1 a good target to study evolutionary change in its mantle, or upper crust. Comets are visible for two reasons. First, dust driven from a comet's nucleus reflects sunlight as it travels through space. Second, certain gases in the comet's coma (the cloud of dust and gas particles surrounding the nucleus), stimulated by the Sun, give off light like a fluorescent bulb. Over time, a comet may become less active or even dormant. Scientists are eager to learn whether comets exhaust their supply of gas and dust to space or seal it into their interiors. They would also like to learn about the structure of a comet's interior and how it is different from its surface. Deep Impact and its excavation of Tempel 1 will help provide answers to these questions.

Deep Impact Spacecraft and Science Instruments

A day before intercept, **Deep Impact** will deploy a 370-kg (~820-lbs) **impactor** spacecraft into the path of the onrushing comet. The **impactor** is a battery-powered spacecraft that operates independently of the main **flyby** spacecraft for just one day. It is called a “smart” **impactor** because, after its release, it takes over its own navigation to maneuver into the path of the comet and select an aim point on the sunlit side. A camera, known as the impact targeting sensor, in the **impactor** captures and relays images of the comet’s nucleus just seconds before collision. The comet, traveling at 29.9 km/sec (66,900 mph) will actually overtake the **impactor** at a relative velocity of 10.2 km/sec (22,800 mph).

A divert maneuver after **impactor** release will put the **flyby** out of harm’s way, to observe the impact with its medium and high resolution imagers. The **flyby** will transmit its own observations as well as relay video from the **impactor** to Earth.

Ice and dust debris will be ejected from the crater revealing fresh material beneath. Sunlight reflecting off the ejected material will provide a dramatic brightening that will fade slowly as the debris dissipates into space or falls back onto the comet.

The impact is not forceful enough to make an appreciable change in Tempel 1’s orbital path around the Sun. However, it will lead to a better understanding of both the solar system’s formation and implications of comets that may collide with Earth in the future.

Deep Impact Spacecraft and Science Instruments



**Deep Impact
(shown in fairing)**

**Medium
Resolution
Imager**

**High
Resolution
Imager**



**Flyby
Spacecraft**



Impactor

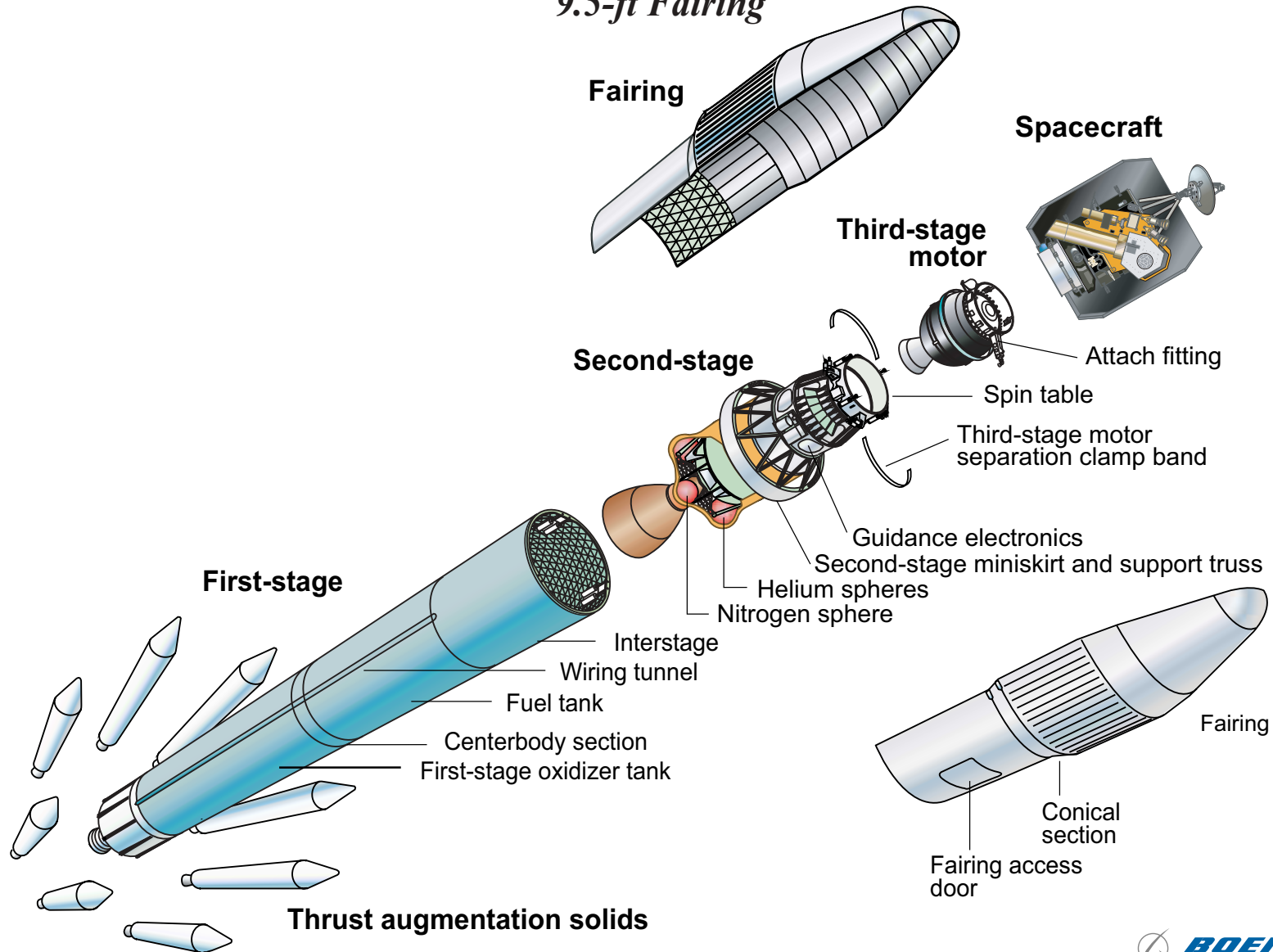
**Impact
Targeting
Sensor**

Deep Impact Mission Description

- Launch period: 08 to 28 January 2005
- Launch times for 08 January
 - First opportunity (95° launch azimuth): 13:08:29 EDT
 - Second opportunity (101° launch azimuth): 13:48:04 EDT
 - Launch time averages ~7 minutes earlier each day of the period
- Spacecraft mass: 976 kg (2151.7 lb)
- Injection conditions for 08 January launch (95° azimuth)
 - Altitude: 982.8 nmi
 - Velocity: 34,110.6 fps
- Comet Impact: 11:08 pm PDT, 3 July 2005

Delta II 7925 Launch Vehicle

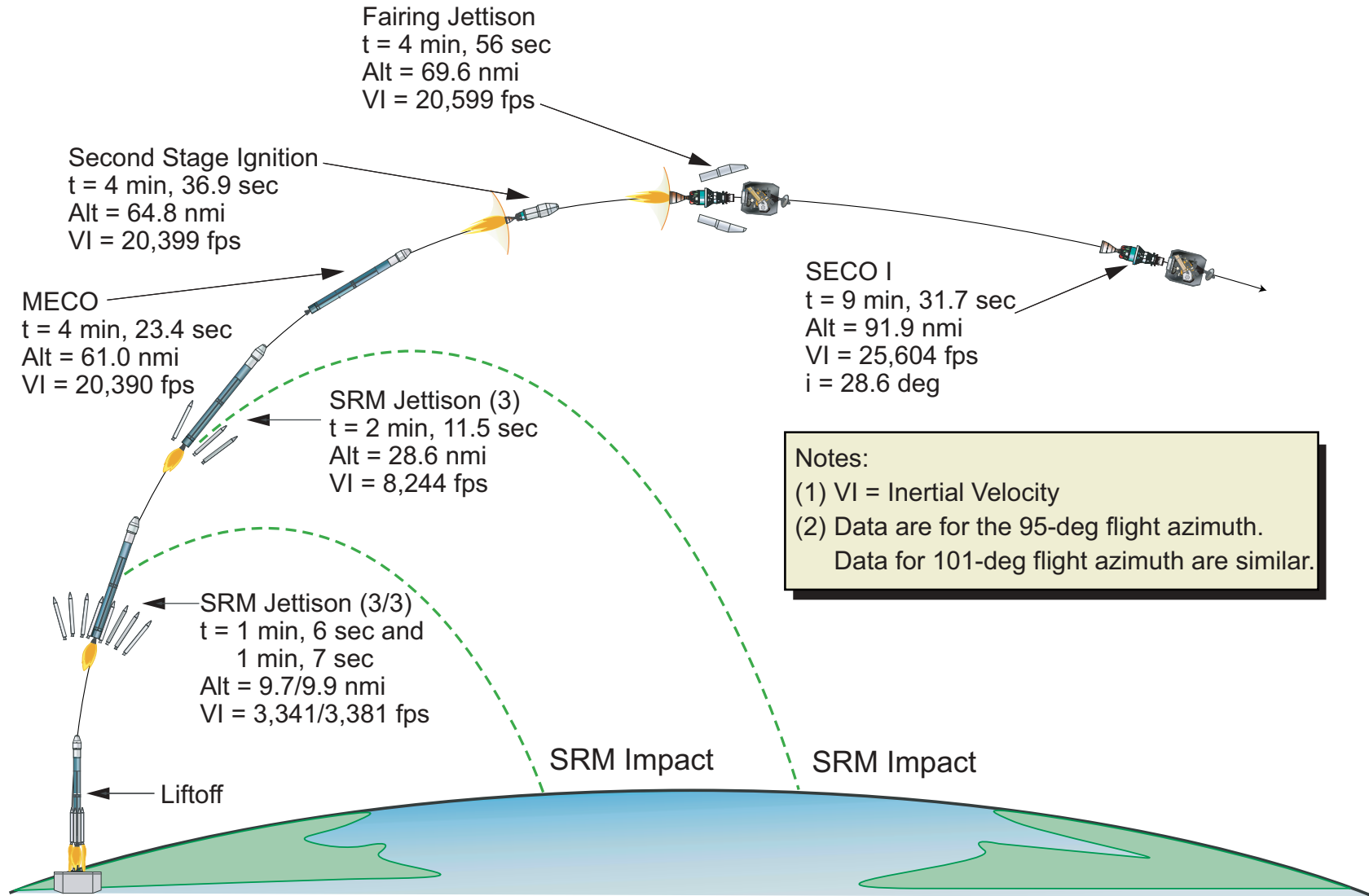
9.5-ft Fairing



Deep Impact Boost Sequence of Events

Event	95-deg Time (min/sec)	101-deg Time (min/sec)
Liftoff	0:00.0	0:00.0
Mach 1	0:32.4	0:32.4
Maximum Dynamic Pressure	0:49.8	0:49.8
6 Solid Motors Burnout	1:03.1	1:03.1
Air Lit Solid Motor Ignition (3)	1:05.5	1:05.5
Jettison 3 Solid Motors	1:06.0	1:06.0
Jettison 3 Solid Motors	1:07.0	1:07.0
Air Lit Solid Motor Burnout	2:08.8	2:08.8
Jettison 3 Air Lit Solid Motors	2:11.5	2:11.5
Main Engine Cutoff (MECO)	4:23.4	4:23.4
Stage I-II Separation	4:31.4	4:31.4
Stage II Ignition	4:36.9	4:36.9
Jettison Fairing	4:56.0	4:56.0
First Cutoff - Stage II (SECO-1)	9:31.7	9:32.4

Deep Impact Boost Profile

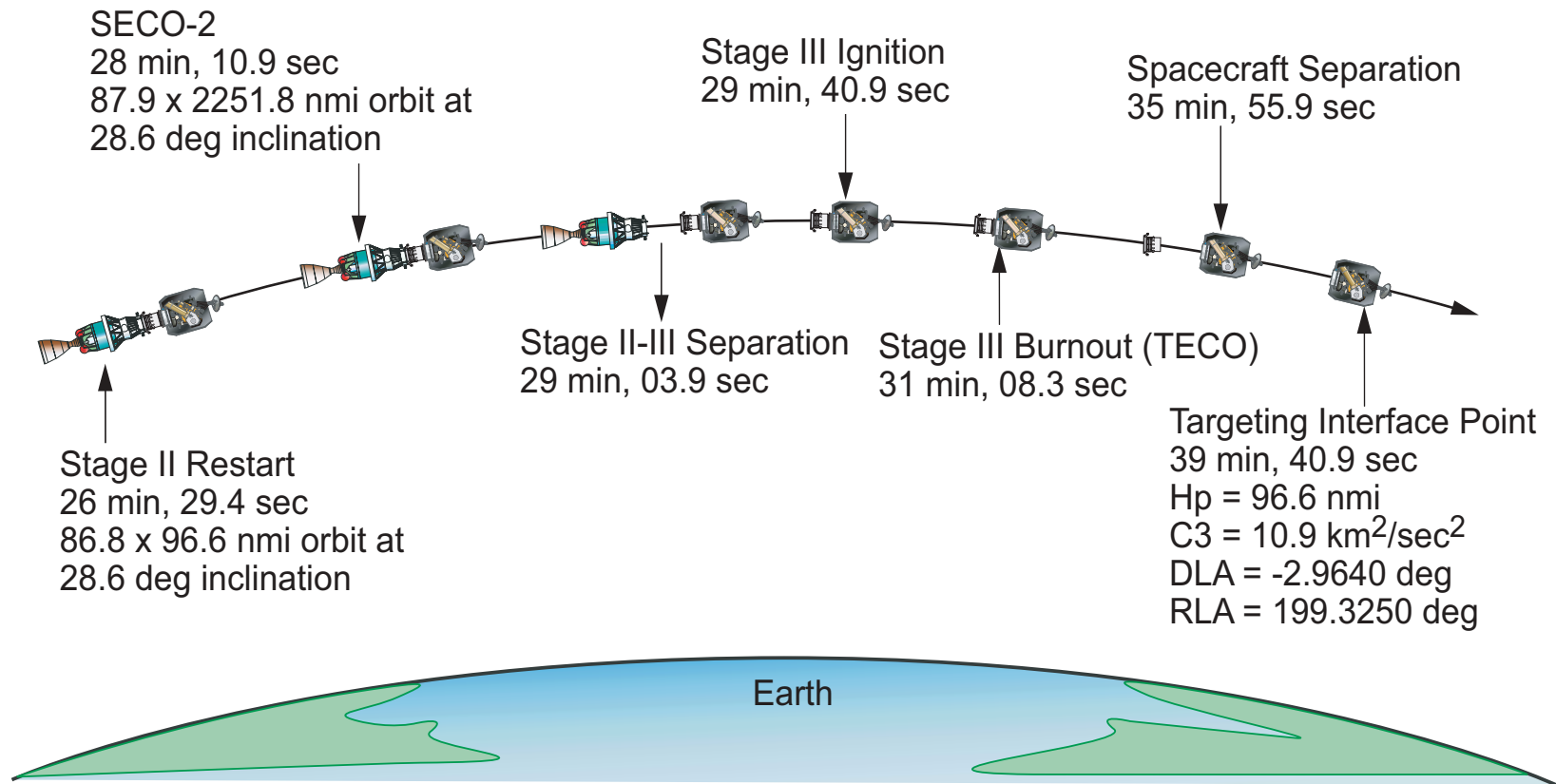


Notes:
(1) VI = Inertial Velocity
(2) Data are for the 95-deg flight azimuth.
Data for 101-deg flight azimuth are similar.

Deep Impact – Second and Third Stage Sequence of Events for 08 January 2005

Event	95-deg Time (min/sec)	101-deg Time (min/sec)
Begin thermal roll maneuver	13:05.0	13:05.0
End thermal roll maneuver	22:45.0	20:40.0
Begin maneuver to restart attitude	22:55.0	20:50.0
End maneuver to restart attitude	24:25.0	22:20.0
Stage II restart ignition	26:29.0	24:22.3
Second cutoff - Stage II (SECO II)	28:10.9	26:04.3
Fire spin rockets	29:00.9	26:54.3
Stage II-III separation	29:03.9	26:57.3
Stage III ignition	29:40.9	27:34.3
Stage III NCS enabled	29:40.9	27:34.3
Stage III burnout (TECO)	31:08.3	29:01.7
Deploy yo-yo weights - NCS disabled	35:50.9	33:44.3
Spacecraft separation	35:55.9	33:49.3
Targeting interface point	39:40.9	37:34.3

Deep Impact – Second and Third Stage Sequence of Events for 12 January 2005



Note: Values shown are for the 95-deg flight azimuth
8 January 2005 launch date.

Deep Impact Flight Mode Description

Boost Phase

- Launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Complex 17B
- 95 deg and 101 deg flight azimuth
- Direct flight azimuth mode employed (combined pitch/yaw rates)
 - Eliminates early large roll maneuver orient vehicle Quad II downrange
- 6 solid motors ignite at liftoff and 3 ignite in the air, after first 6 have burned out
- Vehicle rolled to orient Quad II downrange (± 30 degrees) after solid motor jettison to meet spacecraft instrument requirement
- Boost trajectory designed to meet controllability, structural, and environmental constraints while maximizing performance
- First-stage burns to depletion
- Stage I-II separation 8 seconds after main engine cutoff (MECO)
- Payload fairing jettison meets free molecular heating rate of < 0.1 BTU/ft²-sec
- At SECO-1, vehicle in 90 nmi (167 km) circular parking orbit
- Orbit inclined 28.6 deg for 95 deg azimuth and 29.7 deg for 101 deg azimuth

Deep Impact Flight Mode Description

Second & Third Stage

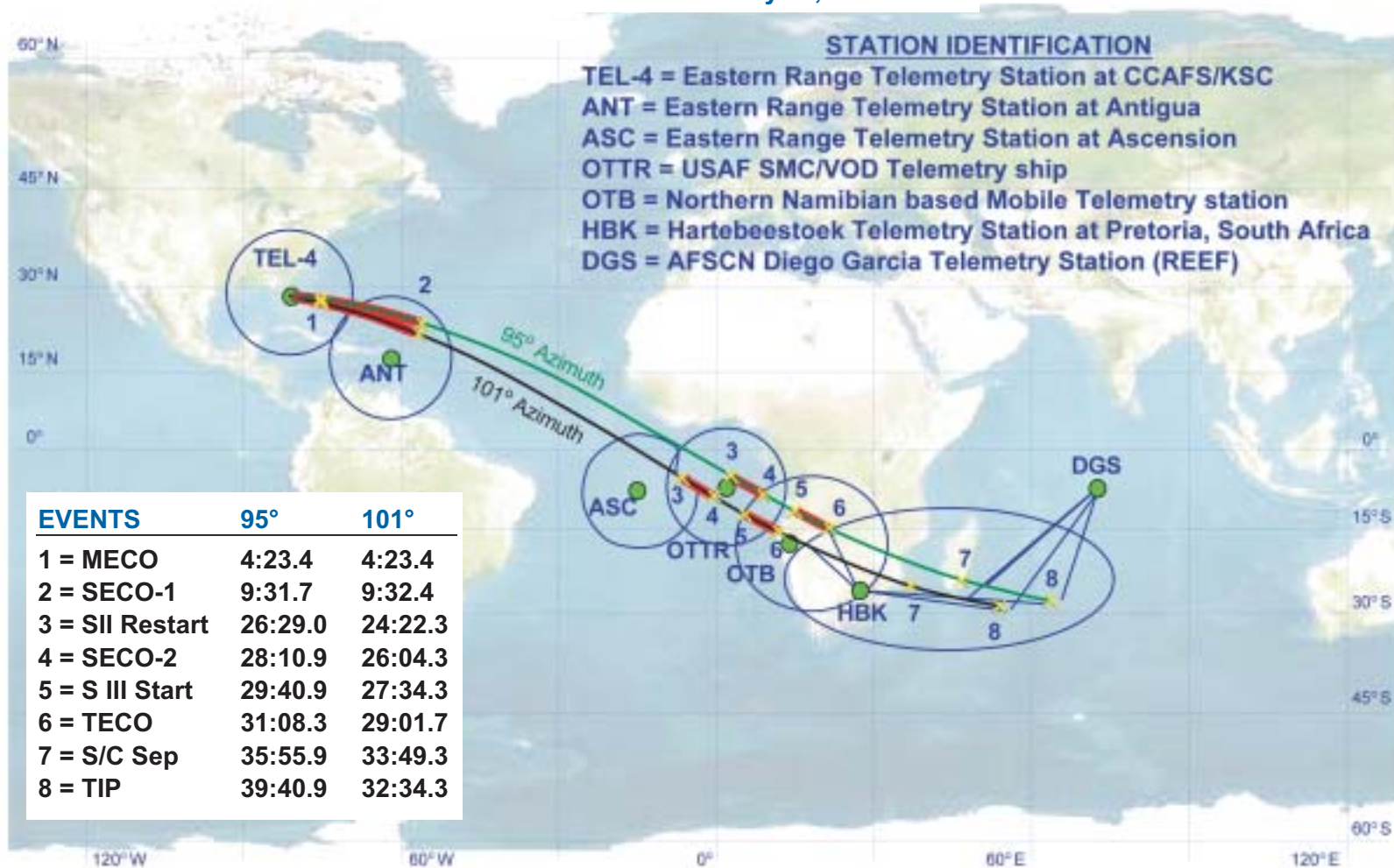
- Following SECO-1, vehicle is re-oriented to thermal roll attitude
 - Vehicle maneuvered to meet spacecraft instrument Sun angle requirement
 - Coast roll rate of 6.1 deg/sec with roll reversal
- Vehicle then reoriented to second stage restart attitude
- Restart burn over west coast of Africa
 - Mobile telemetry coverage off west coast of Africa and from Namibia
- Third stage spun-up 50 seconds after SECO-2 and separated 3 seconds later
- 40 seconds after spin-up, third stage motor burn (~87.3 seconds) injects spacecraft into desired orbit
 - Telemetry coverage from Hartebeesthoek and Diego Garcia
- Yo-Yo despin weights deployed 5 seconds prior to spacecraft separation
- Spacecraft separated 375 seconds after third stage ignition
 - Telemetry coverage from Diego Garcia

Deep Impact Orbit Trace

(08 January 2005)

Telemetry Station Elevation = 2 degrees

DTO data for January 12, 2005.



DEEP IMPACT

First Look Inside A Comet

July
2005



DELTA II

Integrated Defense Systems
P. O. Box 516
St. Louis, MO 63166
www.boeing.com

Boeing Delta II Deep Impact Mission

Mission: Deep Impact

Deep Impact will be launched to a planned collision path with the comet Tempel 1. Deep Impact consists of two spacecraft, a mother ship and an impactor that will collide with the comet. Upon impact, the impactor will leave a crater, enabling scientists to learn more about comets and their role in the formation of the Universe.

The impactor will collide with the comet in July 2005. It has an autonomous guidance system, propulsion system and onboard cameras to keep it on course after its release from the mother ship, which will fly by the comet to take images of it following impact. The Deep Impact impactor measures one-meter in diameter, is 0.8-meters tall and weighs approximately 370 kg. It will leave a crater between the size of a house and a football stadium, and approximately two-to 14-stories deep. Post-impact debris (dust and gases) and the crater will also be observed by the Hubble, Spitzer and Chandra telescopes as well as telescopes on Earth.

Date: January 12, 2005

Window: 1:47:08 p.m. EST (Instantaneous window)

Site: Space Launch Complex 17B
Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

Vehicle: Boeing Delta II 7925-9.5 Configuration

- Three-stage launch vehicle
- Rocketdyne RS-27A main engine
- Aerojet AJ10-118K second-stage engine
- Thiokol Star 48B third-stage motor
- Nine Alliant Techsystems solid rocket boosters
- Nine-and-a-half-foot diameter payload fairing

Customer: NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

**Spacecraft
Developer:** Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp.

###

Contact:
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Boeing Delta Web site: www.boeing.com/delta