High-resolution satellite launched in Calif

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VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — A super-sharp Earth-imaging satellite has been launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on the Central California coast.

A Delta 2 rocket carrying the GeoEye-1 satellite lifted off at 11:50 a.m. Saturday. Video on the GeoEye Web site showed the satellite separating from the rocket moments later on its way to an eventual polar orbit.

The satellite makers say GeoEye-1 has the highest resolution of any commercial imaging system. It can collect images from orbit with enough detail to show home plate on a baseball diamond.

The company says the satellite's imaging services will be sold for uses that could range from environmental mapping to agriculture and defense.

On the Net:

- GeoEye: http://launch.geoeye.com/