Eutelsat/ABS Mission

Mission Overview

Official SpaceX Eutelsat/ABS mission patch

For this mission, SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket will deliver two commercial communications satellites to Geostationary Transfer Orbits (GTO). The two satellites, EUTELSAT 117 West B and ABS-2A, are operated respectively by Eutelsat and ABS – two companies that provide global communications services to a variety of users.

SpaceX is targeting launch from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida on June 15. The approximately 45-minute launch window opens on June 15 at 10:29am ET, 2:29pm UTC. EUTELSAT 117 West B will be deployed approximately 30 minutes after liftoff, and ABS-2A will be deployed 5 minutes later.

Following stage separation, the first stage of Falcon 9 will attempt an experimental landing on the "Of Course I Still Love You" droneship. As with other GTO missions, the first-stage will be subject to extreme velocities and re-entry heating, making a successful landing difficult.

Payload

The payload for this mission is two communications satellites, both built by Boeing Satellite Systems. They each have 48 transponders and 4 dedicated Ku-band transmitters.

EUTELSAT 117 West B will be the second new-generation electric satellite in Eutelsat Americas' fleet and will strengthen the video capacities and offer key services to Latin America clients in the field of telecommunications and government services.

For more information about EUTELSAT 117 West B, click here.

ABS-2A will be the second of the pair of the innovative all-electric propulsion satellites. ABS-2A will serve Africa, MENA, Russia, South Asia and South East Asia regions with video and key communications services at 75°E.

For more information about ABS-2A, click here.

Mission Timeline

COUNTDOWN

Hour/Min/Sec	Events
- 00:38	Launch Conductor takes launch readiness poll
- 00:35	RP-1 (rocket grade kerosene) and LOX (liquid oxygen) loading underway
- 00:10	Falcon 9 begins engine chill prior to launch
- 00:02	Range Control Officer (USAF) verifies range is go for launch
- 00:01:30	SpaceX Launch Director verifies go for launch
- 00:01	Command flight computer to begin final prelaunch checks
- 00:01	Pressurize propellant tanks
- 00:00:03	Engine controller commands engine ignition sequence to start
00:00:00	Falcon 9 liftoff

LAUNCH AND SATELLITE DEPLOYMENT (all times approximate)

Hour/Min/Sec	Events
00:01:17	Max Q (moment of peak mechanical stress on the rocket)
00:02:36	1st stage engine shutdown/main engine cutoff (MECO)
00:02:39	1st and 2nd stages separate
00:02:47	2nd stage engine starts first burn
00:03:34	Fairing deployment
00:09:22	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO-1)
00:25:54	2nd stage engine restarts for second burn
00:26:58	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO-2)
00:30:29	EUTELSAT 117 West B deployment
00:35:29	ABS-2A deployment

Launch Facility

Space Launch Complex 40, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla.

SpaceX's Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station is a world-class launch site that builds on a strong heritage. The site, located at the north end of the Cape, was used for many years to launch Titan rockets, among the most powerful rockets in the U.S. fleet. SpaceX took over the facility in May 2008.

The center of the complex is composed of the concrete launch pad and flame exhaust duct. Surrounding the pad are four lightning towers, propellant storage tanks, and the integration hangar. Before launch, Falcon 9's stages and payload are housed inside the hangar. The encapsulated payload was transported to the SLC-40 hangar and mated to the Falcon 9 already on the transporter erector. The rocket and payload are then rolled out from the hangar to the launch pad on fixed rails and lifted to a vertical position prior to launch.

Resources

SPACEX CONTACT | John Taylor, Director of Communications, 310-363-6703, media@spacex.com.
PHOTOS | High-resolution photos will be posted at spacex.com/media and flickr.com/spacex.
WEBCAST | Launch webcast will be live about 20 minutes before launch at spacex.com/webcast.