CRS-18 MISSION

WEBCAST

Launch webcast will go live about 15 minutes before liftoff at spacex.com/webcast

PHOTOS

High-resolution photos will be posted at flickr.com/spacex

MISSION OVERVIEW

SpaceX is targeting Wednesday, July 24 for launch of its eighteenth Commercial Resupply Services mission (CRS-18) at 6:24 p.m. EDT, or 22:24 UTC, from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. Dragon will separate from Falcon 9's second stage about nine minutes after liftoff and attach to the space station on Friday, July 26. A backup launch opportunity is available on Thursday, July 25 at 6:01 p.m. EDT, or 22:01 UTC.

The Dragon spacecraft that will support the CRS-18 mission previously supported the CRS-6 mission in April 2015 and the CRS-13 mission in December 2017. Following stage separation, SpaceX will attempt to recover Falcon 9's first stage on Landing Zone 1 (LZ-1) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

DRAGON SPACECRAFT

Dragon will be filled with approximately 5,000 pounds of supplies and payloads, including critical materials to directly support more than 250 science and research investigations that will occur onboard the orbiting laboratory.

CRS-18 is the eighteenth of up to 20 missions to the International Space Station that SpaceX will fly for NASA under the first CRS contract. In January 2016, NASA announced that SpaceX's Falcon 9 launch vehicle and Dragon spacecraft were selected to resupply the space station through 2024 as part of a second Commercial Resupply Services contract award. Under the CRS contracts, SpaceX has restored the United States' capability to deliver and return significant amounts of cargo, including live plants and animals, to and from the orbiting laboratory. Crew Dragon, a variant of the Dragon spacecraft designed to transport U.S-based crew to and from the space station, completed its first demonstration mission in March 2019.

ISS CAPTURE

International Space Station crew members will use the station's 57.7-foot (17.6-meter) robotic arm to capture Dragon and attach it to the orbiting laboratory on Friday, July 26.

RETURN FLIGHT

Dragon will return to Earth with more than 3,300 pounds of cargo after an approximately four-week stay at the International Space Station. About five hours after Dragon leaves the space station, it will conduct its deorbit burn, which lasts up to 10 minutes. It takes about 30 minutes for Dragon to reenter the Earth's atmosphere and splash down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Baja California.

LAUNCH FACILITY

Falcon 9 will launch the CRS-18 mission from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Learn more about SpaceX's launch facilities at spacex.com/about.

SPACEX CONTACT

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MISSION TIMELINE (all times approximate)

COUNTDOWN

Hour/Min/Sec	Event
- 00:38:00	SpaceX Launch Director verifies go for propellant load
- 00:35:00	RP-1 (rocket grade kerosene) loading begins
- 00:35:00	1st stage LOX (liquid oxygen) loading begins
- 00:16:00	2nd stage LOX loading begins
- 00:07:58	Dragon transitions to internal power
- 00:07:00	Falcon 9 begins pre-launch engine chill
- 00:01:00	Command flight computer to begin final prelaunch checks
- 00:01:00	Propellant tanks pressurize for flight
- 00:00:45	SpaceX Launch Director verifies go for launch
- 00:00:03	Engine controller commands engine ignition sequence to start
- 00:00:00	Falcon 9 liftoff

LAUNCH, LANDINGS, AND DRAGON DEPLOYMENT

Hour/Min/Sec	Event
00:01:12	Max Q (moment of peak mechanical stress on the rocket)
00:02:18	1st stage main engine cutoff (MECO)
00:02:21	1st and 2nd stages separate
00:02:29	2nd stage engine starts
00:02:34	1st stage boostback burn begins
00:06:37	1st stage entry burn begins
00:08:23	1st stage landing
00:08:38	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO)
00:09:38	Dragon separates from 2nd stage
00:12:06	Dragon's solar arrays deploy
02:19:00	Dragon's Guidance, Navigation and Control bay door opens