



DECEMBER 17, 2025

STARLINK MISSION

WATCH →

On Wednesday, December 17 at 8:42 a.m. ET, Falcon 9 launched 29 [Starlink](#) satellites to low-Earth orbit from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

This was the sixth flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission, which previously launched Ax-4, Crew-11, Cygnus NG-23, and now three Starlink missions. Following stage separation, the first stage landed on the Just Read the Instructions dronship, which was stationed in the Atlantic Ocean.

COUNTDOWN

HR/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
00:07:00	FALCON 9 BEGINS ENGINE CHILL PRIOR TO LAUNCH
00:01:00	COMMAND FLIGHT COMPUTER TO BEGIN FINAL PRELAUNCH CHECKS
00:01:00	PROPELLANT TANK PRESSURIZATION TO FLIGHT PRESSURE BEGINS
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, LANDING, AND DEPLOYMENT

All Times Approximate

HR/MIN/SEC	EVENT
00:01:12	MAX Q (MOMENT OF PEAK MECHANICAL STRESS ON THE ROCKET)
00:02:24	1ST STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUTOFF (MECO)
00:02:27	1ST AND 2ND STAGES SEPARATE
00:02:35	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-1)
00:02:56	FAIRING SEPARATION
00:06:07	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN BEGINS
00:06:34	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:07:59	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:08:23	1ST STAGE LANDING
00:08:38	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-1)
00:53:49	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
00:53:51	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-2)
01:04:56	STARLINK SATELLITES DEPLOY

