

JANUARY 4, 2026

# STARLINK MISSION

WATCH →

On Sunday, January 4 at 1:48 a.m. ET, Falcon 9 launched 29 [Starlink](#) satellites to low-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

This was the first flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission. 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
00:06:35	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:08:00	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:08:24	1ST STAGE LANDING
00:08:39	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-1)
00:53:47	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
00:53:48	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-2)
01:04:54	STARLINK SATELLITES DEPLOY

