

JANUARY 27, 2026

# GPS III-9 MISSION

WATCH →

On Tuesday, January 27 at 11:53 p.m. ET, Falcon 9 launched the **GPS III-9** mission to medium-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

This was the fifth flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission, which previously launched KF-01, IMAP, NROL-77, and one Starlink mission. Following stage separation, the first stage landed on the A Shortfall of Gravitas droneship, 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)
00:02:29	1ST STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUTOFF (MECO)
00:02:32	1ST AND 2ND STAGES SEPARATE
00:02:40	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-1)
00:03:29	FAIRING SEPARATION
00:06:10	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN BEGINS
00:06:39	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:08:05	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-1)
00:08:10	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:08:34	1ST STAGE LANDING
01:03:30	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
01:04:18	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-2)
01:29:19	GPS III-9 DEPLOYS