

JANUARY 11, 2026

TWILIGHT MISSION

WATCH →

On Sunday, January 11 at 5:44 a.m. PT, Falcon 9 launched the Twilight mission to dusk-dawn Sun-synchronous orbit from Space Launch Complex 4E (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

Twilight was a [dedicated smallsat rideshare mission](#). There were 40 payloads on this flight.

This was the fifth flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission which previously launched Sentinel-6B and three Starlink missions. Following stage separation, the first stage landed on Landing Zone 4 (LZ-4) at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

COUNTDOWN

HR:MIN:SEC	EVENT
00:38:00	SPACE X 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	SPACE X 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)
00:02:15	1ST STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUTOFF (MECO)
00:02:18	1ST AND 2ND STAGES SEPARATE
00:02:22	STAGE 1 FLIP
00:02:26	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-1)
00:02:32	BOOSTBACK BURN STARTS
00:02:56	FAIRING SEPARATION
00:03:26	BOOSTBACK BURN ENDS
00:06:08	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN BEGINS
00:06:19	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:07:16	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:07:34	1ST STAGE LANDING
00:08:09	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-1)
00:56:55	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
00:56:56	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-2)
01:01:33	CONNECTA IOT-14 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:01:49	HYDRA-2 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:01:56	LEMUR-2-KUTAR DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:02:02	CONNECTA IOT-13 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:02:07	HAWK-13B DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:03:04	TOMORROW-S11 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY THE TOMORROW COMPANIES, INC
01:03:16	TOMORROW-S10 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY THE TOMORROW COMPANIES, INC
01:03:56	CONNECTA IOT-16 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:04:09	CONNECTA IOT-15 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:04:36	HAWK-13A DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:06:59	FLAMINGO-1 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:07:50	HAWK-13C DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
01:08:22	CARBSAR I00 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY SSTL
01:43:04	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-3)
01:43:05	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-3)
02:14:51	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-4)
02:14:52	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-4)
02:19:56	LEMUR-2-HCS-BAZUS DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:19:59	LEMUR-2-CALLUM-K-J DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:20:01	BLACKCAT DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:20:17	LEMUR-2-KATIE DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:20:18	DCUBED-1 / ARAQYS-D1 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:20:20	LEMUR-2-MARIO-SOUSA DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:20:21	STAR-PLANET ACTIVITY RESEARCH CUBESAT (SPARCS) DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED THROUGH NASA'S CUBESAT LAUNCH INITIATIVE, INTEGRATED BY MAVERICK SPACE SYSTEMS
02:20:31	LEMUR-2-SONNENBLUME DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:20:43	LEMUR-2-GRAM-E-SUE DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:21:11	LEMUR-2-WOBLER DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:21:33	LEMUR-2-FIKRETDENGIZ DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:21:41	ACADIA-8 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY CAPELLA
02:21:49	UMBRA-12 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY UMBRA
02:21:56	AETHER-8 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:22:52	ICEYE 2 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:23:11	ACADIA-9 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY CAPELLA
02:23:27	AETHER-12 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:23:28	AETHER-11 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:24:09	AETHER-5 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:24:15	ICEYE 1 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY EXOLAUNCH
02:25:00	AETHER-9 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:25:40	AETHER-6 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:26:44	AETHER-4 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:27:58	PANDORA DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY NASA
02:30:55	AETHER-3 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:32:00	AETHER-7 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS
02:32:59	AETHER-10 DEPLOYS, MANIFESTED BY KEPLER COMMUNICATIONS

