

JANUARY 21, 2026

STARLINK MISSION

WATCH →

On Wednesday, January 21 at 9:47 p.m. PT, Falcon 9 launched 25 [Starlink](#) satellites to low-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

This was the 10th flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission, which previously launched SDA TITL-B, SDA TITL-C, and now eight Starlink missions. Following stage separation, the first stage landed on the Of Course I Still Love You droneship, which was stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

There was a possibility that residents of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties may have heard **one or more sonic booms** during the launch, but what residents experienced depended on weather and other conditions.

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)
00:02:26	1ST STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUTOFF (MECO)
00:02:30	1ST AND 2ND STAGES SEPARATE
00:02:36	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-1)
00:02:58	FAIRING SEPARATION
00:06:00	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN BEGINS
00:06:21	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:07:51	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:08:14	1ST STAGE LANDING
00:08:40	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-1)
00:53:16	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
00:53:17	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-2)
01:02:08	STARLINK SATELLITES DEPLOY

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