



FEBRUARY 2, 2026

STARLINK MISSION

WATCH →

On Monday, February 2 at 7:47 a.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 31st flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission, which previously launched NROL-87, NROL-85, SARah-1, SWOT, Transporter-8, Transporter-9, NROL-146, Bandwagon-2, NROL-153, NROL-192, Transporter-14, Transporter-15, and now 19 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.

During launch, the second stage experienced an off-nominal condition caused by a failed ignition due to a gas bubble in the transfer tube ahead of the planned deorbit burn. The vehicle then performed as designed to successfully passivate the stage, which reentered Earth's atmosphere approximately 10.5 hours later over the Southern Indian Ocean. No reports have been received of debris sightings or third-party damage.

SpaceX teams have actively and safely been testing opportunities to refine the pre-burn engine chill profiles, specifically targeting the deorbit burn after the safe deploy of Starlink satellites. The goal of this testing is to ultimately ensure space safety, effectively ensuring that all Falcon second stages completely deorbit, leaving behind no space debris. In 2024, 13 out of 134 upper Falcon 9 stages remained on-orbit after successful payload deploys. In 2025, we reduced this number to three out of a total of 165 launches. All 16 of the stages successfully passivated on-orbit and of those, six have since reentered. The remaining 10 second stages on-orbit had no deorbit planned per the approved mission profiles and are continuously tracked, allowing satellites with maneuvering capabilities to adjust accordingly. This deorbit reduction effort requires novel methods in order to perform deorbit burns on missions that would not otherwise have the performance to, such as missions to Geostationary Transfer Orbit. These tests provide critical data and insights, continuously improving the reliability of Falcon and protecting public safety across all missions.

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)
00:02:24	1ST STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUTOFF (MECO)
00:02:28	1ST AND 2ND STAGES SEPARATE
00:02:35	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-1)
00:02:55	FAIRING SEPARATION
00:06:07	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN BEGINS
00:06:32	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:07:58	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:08:22	1ST STAGE LANDING
00:08:39	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SEC0-1)
00:53:16	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
00:53:17	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SEC0-2)
01:02:08	STARLINK SATELLITES DEPLOY