

MARCH 8, 2026

STARLINK MISSION

WATCH →

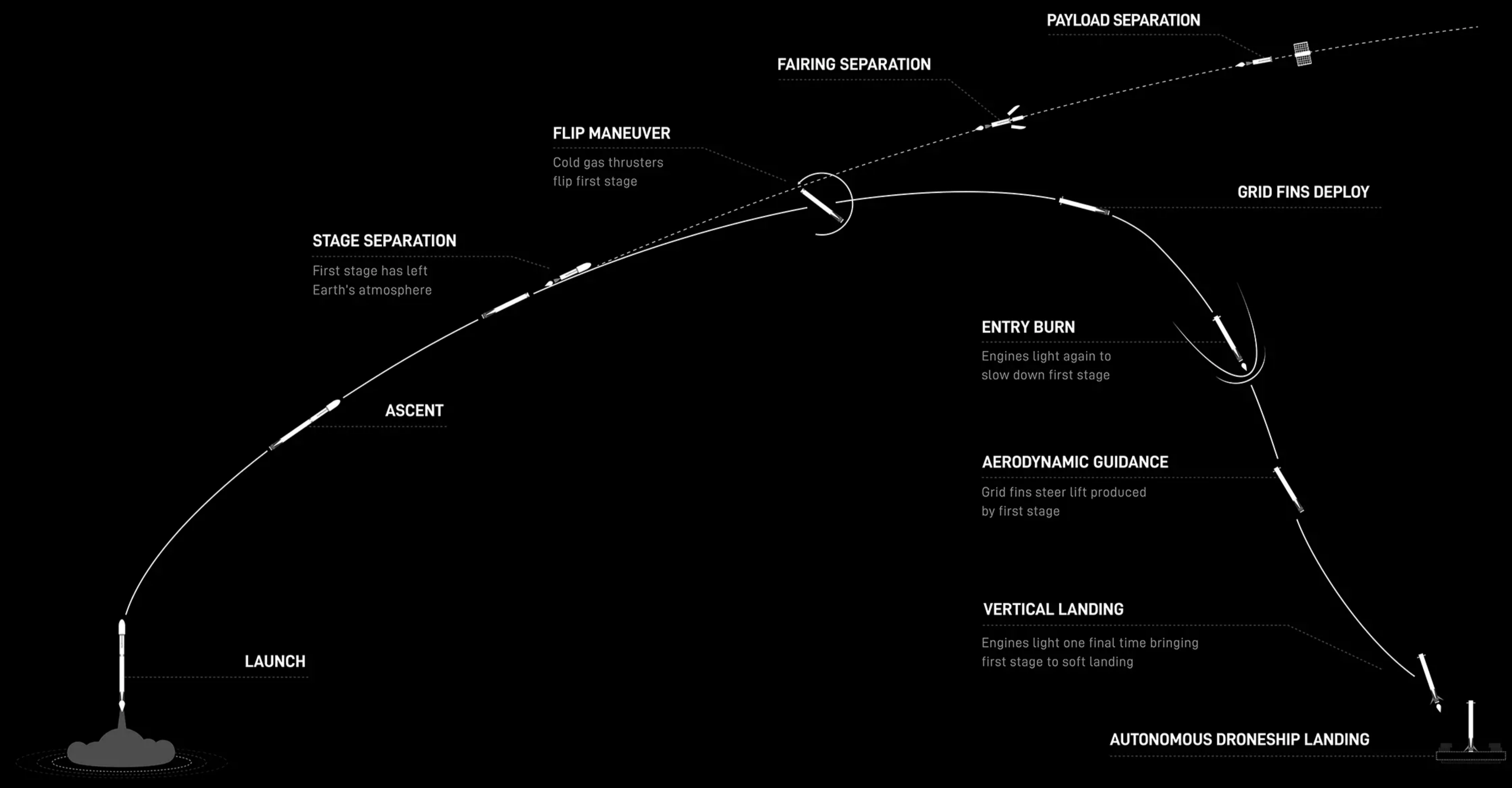
On Sunday, March 8 at 7:00 a.m. PT, Falcon 9 launched 25 Starlink satellites to low-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E) at Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

This was the seventh flight for the first stage booster supporting this mission, which previously launched Sentinel-6B, Twilight, and now five Starlink missions. Following stage separation, the first stage landed on the Of Course I Still Love You dronship, 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	SPACE 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 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
00:01:08	MAX Q (MOMENT OF PEAK MECHANICAL STRESS ON THE ROCKET)
00:02:26	1ST STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUTOFF (MECO)
00:02:29	1ST AND 2ND STAGES SEPARATE
00:02:36	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-1)
00:02:58	FAIRING SEPARATION
00:05:59	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN BEGINS
00:06:20	1ST STAGE ENTRY BURN ENDS
00:07:52	1ST STAGE LANDING BURN BEGINS
00:08:13	1ST STAGE LANDING
00:08:40	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-1)
00:53:02	2ND STAGE ENGINE STARTS (SES-2)
00:53:03	2ND STAGE ENGINE CUTOFF (SECO-2)
01:01:53	STARLINK SATELLITES DEPLOY

