

STARLINK GROUP 4-18 MISSION



MISSION OVERVIEW

SpaceX is targeting Wednesday, May 18 for a Falcon 9 launch of 53 **Starlink** satellites to low-Earth orbit from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The instantaneous launch window is at 6:20 a.m. ET, or 10:20 UTC, and a backup opportunity is available on Thursday, May 19 at 6:38 a.m. ET, or 10:38 UTC.

The first stage booster supporting this mission previously launched Arabsat-6A, STP-2, COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation FM2, and one Starlink mission. Following stage separation, Falcon 9's first stage will return to Earth and land on the A Shortfall of Gravitas droneship stationed in the Atlantic Ocean.

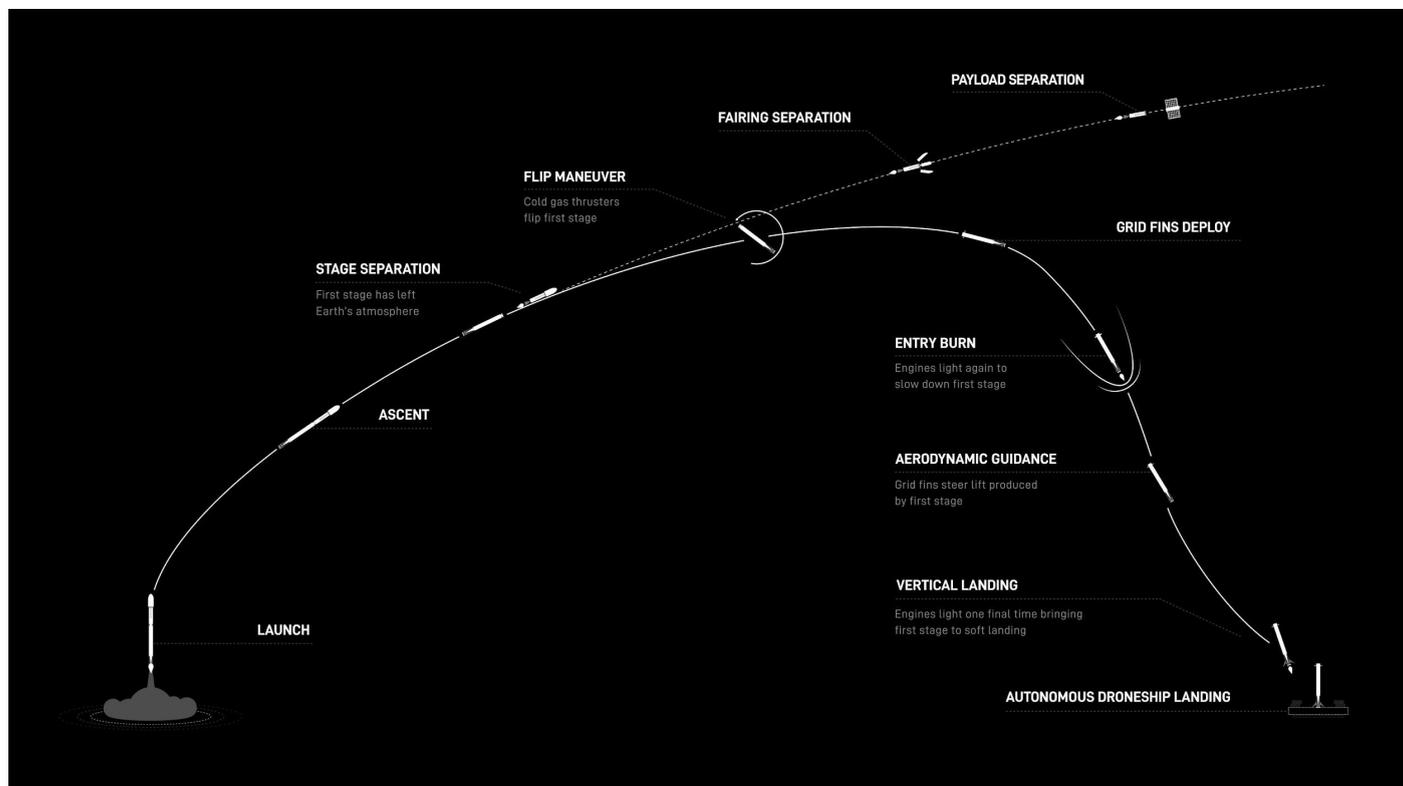
WEBCAST

[A live webcast of this mission](#) will begin about 10 minutes prior to liftoff.

PHOTOS

High-resolution photos will be posted at [flickr.com/spacex](https://www.flickr.com/photos/spacex/).

MISSION PROFILE



MISSION TIMELINE (ALL TIMES APPROXIMATE)

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

Hr/Min/Sec	Event
00:01:02	Max Q (moment of peak mechanical stress on the rocket)
00:02:30	1st stage main engine cutoff (MECO)
00:02:33	1st and 2nd stages separate
00:02:40	2nd stage engine starts (SES-1)
00:02:47	Fairing deployment
00:06:15	1st stage entry burn start
00:06:34	1st stage entry burn complete
00:08:01	1st stage landing burn start
00:08:23	1st stage landing
00:08:45	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO-1)
00:45:23	2nd stage engine starts
00:45:25	2nd stage engine cutoff (SECO-2)
00:59:17	Starlink satellites deploy