

# FASTAT launch on its way

November 18 2010, By Holly Zell

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Artist's rendition of the FASTSat-HSV spacecraft in orbit. Credit NASA/Dynetics

Launch of the FASTSAT Satellite is scheduled for this Friday night, November 19, at 8:24 PM ET on a Minotaur IV launch vehicle from the Alaska Aerospace Corporations Kodiak Launch Complex on Kodiak Island, Alaska.

FASTSAT (Fast, Affordable, Science and Technology Satellite) is [NASA](#)'s first microsatellite designed to create a capability that increases opportunities for secondary, scientific and technology payloads, or rideshares, to be flown at lower cost than previously possible. It's carrying six different scientific payloads.

Three science instruments, designed to monitor space weather and gauge how it affects the Earth's upper atmosphere and magnetosphere, were built at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, in partnership with the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. They are:

- TTI (Thermosphere Temperature Imager),
- MINI-ME, a low-energy neutral atom imager to detect neutral atoms formed in the plasma population of the Earth's outer atmosphere to improve global [space](#) weather prediction,
- PISA (Plasma and Impedence Spectrum Analyzer).

**More information:** To view the launch, log onto the the Space Flight Now website at: [www.spaceflightnow.com/minotaur/stps26/status.html](http://www.spaceflightnow.com/minotaur/stps26/status.html)

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: FASTAT launch on its way (2010, November 18) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-11-fastat.html>

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