

Brazil launches rocket into orbit

December 13 2010

Brazil on Sunday successfully launched a mid-sized unmanned rocket into space, with hundreds of kilograms (pounds) in cargo and experiments in tow, space officials here said.

Scientists from the Agencia Espacial Brasileira (AEB) said the VSB-3 rocket took off from the Alcantara Launch Center in northeast Brazil, reaching an altitude of some 242 kilometers (389 miles).

Officials said the rocket, designed by Brazilian and German scientists, carried some 400 kilograms (881 pounds) in cargo, as well as various micro-gravity experiments for several academic institutions.

The rocket soared for about 18 minutes before splashing down some 145 miles (233 kilometers) off Brazil's Atlantic coast, where it was retrieved by the air force and marines.

[Brazil](#) aims to join China and Russia as a top emerging economy with its own [space](#) program.

The launch is seen as a major accomplishment for a program that has faced setbacks and tragedy over the years -- including an August 2003 [rocket](#) accident at Alcantara that killed 21 Brazilian technicians and engineers.

(c) 2010 AFP

Citation: Brazil launches rocket into orbit (2010, December 13) retrieved 10 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2010-12-brazil-rocket-orbit.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.