

Russia launches first Soyuz rocket since August crash

October 3 2011



A Soyuz-2-1A launch vehicle blasts off from the launch pad at the Russian leased Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome in 2010. A Russian Soyuz-2 rocket launched a GLONASS navigation satellite on Sunday, the defence ministry said, in the first launch since a freighter carried by the flagship vehicle crashed into Earth in August.

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Russia has "successfully completed the launch of a Soyuz-2 rocket with the GLONASS-M (satellite) at 0015 (2015 GMT)," Colonel Alexei Zolotukhin was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

The satellite was launched from the [Plesetsk cosmodrome](#) 800 kilometres (500 miles) south of Moscow.

In August, an unmanned Progress space ship carrying tonnes of cargo for the [International Space Station](#) (ISS) crashed into Siberia in August shortly after blast-off.

Sunday's launch had been scheduled for late August, but was repeatedly postponed following cargo ship's crash.

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