

Israeli telecom satellite sent into space

September 1 2013

A rocket carrying an Israeli communications satellite has been successfully launched from a Russian facility in Kazakhstan, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) said in a statement on Sunday.

It said that the AMOS-4 satellite lifted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome atop a Russian Zenit rocket on Saturday night.

The 4.3-tonne AMOS-4 would provide "broadcast and communication services to Europe, the Middle East, the United States east coast, Africa, Russia, and southeast Asia," IAI said.

Israel has previously had three [communications satellites](#) sent into space, the last being the AMOS-3, launched from Kazakhstan in 2008, also on a Zenit.

Israel also has its own Shavit rocket which has put six spy satellites into orbit, most recently the Ofek-9 which is reportedly capable of monitoring arch-foe Iran.

Israel, which has the Middle East's sole, albeit undeclared, [nuclear arsenal](#), is also believed to have a stock of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

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