

SpaceX will attempt ocean landing of rocket Jan 17

January 11 2016



The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is seen on December 16, 2015

SpaceX will try again Sunday to land its Falcon 9 rocket on an ocean platform, one month after successfully returning the rocket's first stage to an upright landing on solid ground.

Previous attempts to set down the rocket's first stage on a floating barge in the Atlantic Ocean have failed, but the California-based company will

try again on January 17, a spokesman confirmed.

This time, the Falcon 9 will launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

According to NASA, the rocket will carry "Jason-3, an international mission led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to continue US - European satellite measurements of the topography of the [ocean](#) surface."

The launch is planned for 1:42 pm Eastern time (1842 GMT), at the opening of a 30-second launch window.

A backup [launch](#) opportunity will occur on January 18 at 1:31 pm (1831 GMT).

SpaceX, headed by Internet entrepreneur Elon Musk, has tried three times before to land its Falcon 9 on what it calls a "droneship" platform, marked with an X.

Each attempt failed, after the rocket either missed, collided with the barge or tipped over after setting down.

On December 22, the company celebrated its first successful landing of the rocket's first stage on solid ground, as part of SpaceX's mission to make rockets reusable, much like airplanes.

The goal is to bring down the cost of [rocket](#) launches and make space flight more affordable and sustainable in the years to come.

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