

SpaceX shooting for mid-December launch, 1st since blast

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SpaceX is shooting for a mid-December launch, its first since a dramatic rocket accident on the pad.

Iridium Communications Inc. said Thursday that 10 of its satellites will be aboard the SpaceX Falcon [rocket](#) tentatively scheduled to take off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on Dec. 16. That would end a 3 1/2-month launch hiatus by SpaceX.

The Federal Aviation Administration must first sign off on the accident investigation. SpaceX says the investigation is nearly complete.

A massive fireball engulfed a Falcon rocket on the pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Sept. 1. The rocket's helium pressurization system was breached as fueling was underway for a test firing. Engineers have zeroed in on a helium bottle in the second-stage oxygen tank.

More information: SpaceX: www.spacex.com/

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