

Russian booster rocket puts US satellite in orbit

June 8 2017



In this photo provided by State Space Corporation Roscosmos, the Proton-M rocket booster with U.S. communication satellite EchoStar-21 successfully blasts off at Russian-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, Thursday, June 8, 2017. (State Space Corporation Roscosmos via AP)

A Russian Proton-M booster rocket carrying a U.S. communications satellite has lifted off, a successful launch after a year-long break caused by manufacturing flaws.

The Proton-M blasted off as scheduled Thursday from the Baikonur launch facility that Russia leases from Kazakhstan, taking the EchoStar 21 [satellite](#) into space.

In the previous launch in June 2016, the rocket suffered a malfunction in its second-stage [engine](#) but the third-stage engine compensated for it, placing a U.S. commercial satellite into orbit.

A subsequent probe spotted manufacturing flaws in the Proton engines, prompting the Russian space agency to ground the rocket and to remake already produced engines.

The glitch dealt a blow to Russia's space program that relies on the Proton-M for most commercial satellite launches in the tightly-contested global launch market.



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In this image made from video provided by State Space Corporation Roscosmos, the Proton-M rocket booster with U.S. communication satellite Echostar-21 successfully blasts off at Russian-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, Thursday, June 8, 2017. (State Space Corporation Roscosmos via AP)

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Citation: Russian booster rocket puts US satellite in orbit (2017, June 8) retrieved 23 April 2024

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