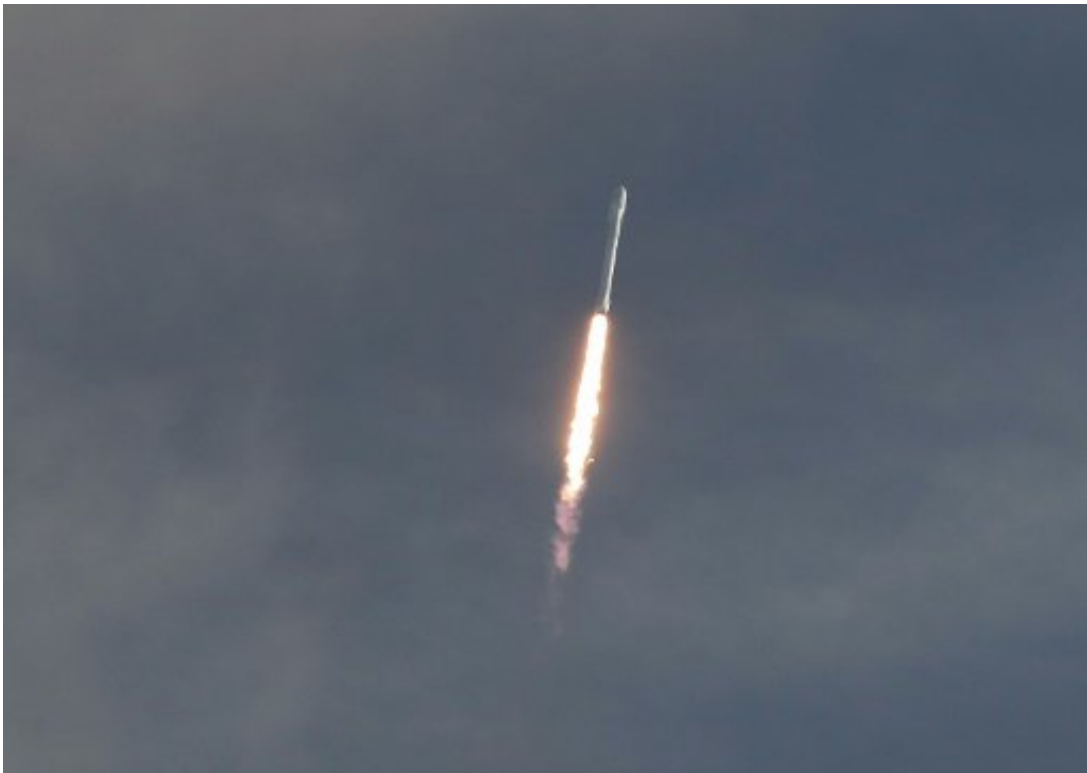


# SpaceX launches 10 satellites for Iridium mobile network

October 9 2017

---



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket like this one launched in May 2017 blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force base in California carrying 10 satellites for the Virginia-based company Iridium

SpaceX launched its Falcon 9 rocket on Monday carrying 10 satellites to bolster the global data communications network for Virginia-based company, Iridium.

The white rocket blasted off at 5:37 am (1237 GMT), before sunrise, from Vandenberg Air Force base in California.

About seven minutes after launch, the tall portion of the Falcon 9, known as the first stage, returned to Earth for an upright landing.

This part of the vehicle fired its rocket engines and made a controlled landing on a floating platform in the Pacific Ocean.

"A successful landing of the first stage," SpaceX commentator John Innsbrucker said on the company's live webcast, as applause erupted at SpaceX mission control in Hawthorne, California.

Grainy video showed the rocket standing upright in the predawn darkness on the dronship, named "Just Read the Instructions."

The landing was a success for SpaceX's ongoing effort to re-use expensive rocket parts instead of jettisoning them into the ocean after launch.

About an hour later, SpaceX confirmed that all the satellites were successfully deployed.

"We are 10 for 10," Innsbrucker said.

In total SpaceX, which is headed by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, is launching a series of 75 satellites for Iridium's satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT by 2018.

Monday's launch was the third of eight planned for Iridium, as part of a \$3 billion project to upgrade the company's global communications network.

© 2017 AFP

Citation: SpaceX launches 10 satellites for Iridium mobile network (2017, October 9) retrieved 18 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2017-10-spacex-satellites-iridium-mobile-network.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.