

Venezuelan communications satellite out of service

March 26 2020



The Simon Bolivar communications satellite was launched in 2008 during the presidency of late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez (1999-2013)

Venezuela's first communications satellite, launched in 2008, is out of

service due to a systems failure, the country's government said Wednesday.

"Due to a failure, the Simon Bolivar satellite is no longer working for communication," said the science and technology minister in a statement, without giving further details.

On Monday, the US-based news site Space News reported that VeneSat1—the satellite's other name—"has been stuck for 10 days in an [elliptical orbit](#)," after a "series of maneuvers left it tumbling in an unusable orbit."

According to the Bolivarian Agency for Space Activities, the satellite was used to transmit certain [television signals](#), as well as for internet connections and mobile telephone use.

It was built by China and baptized "Simon Bolivar" in honor of a national Venezuelan hero. It was launched in 2008, while Hugo Chavez was in office (1999-2013).

Venezuela launched a second satellite, the "Francisco de Miranda," in September 2012.

© 2020 AFP

Citation: Venezuelan communications satellite out of service (2020, March 26) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-03-venezuelan-satellite.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.