

# SpaceX-NASA launch postponed to Sunday due to weather

November 13 2020

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NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine speaks during a press briefing at the Kennedy Space Center on November 13, 2020 in Cape Canaveral, Florida

NASA on Friday said the planned launch of a crewed SpaceX vessel to the International Space Station (ISS) on Saturday had to be postponed by

a day due to inclement weather.

"Due to onshore winds and recovery operations, @NASA and @SpaceX are targeting launch of the Crew-1 mission with astronauts to the @Space\_Station at 7:27 p.m. EST Sunday, Nov. 15 (0027 GMT Monday)," NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine tweeted.

"Recovery operations" refers to the ships that have to be moved into place in case the mission is aborted after launch and the crew is forced to splash down in the ocean.

Sunday's launch begins the first of what the US hopes will become routine missions for SpaceX following a successful test flight in late spring.

That demonstration flight in May was in turn the first time a crewed mission took off from US soil since the Space Shuttle program ended in 2011, leaving NASA reliant on Russian rockets for rides to the ISS.

The crew members—three Americans and one Japanese—will fly aboard a Crew Dragon, a capsule spacecraft that earlier this week became the first to be certified by NASA since the Space Shuttle nearly 40 years ago.

"The history being made this time is we're launching what we call an operational flight to the International Space Station," Bridenstine told reporters at a press conference earlier.

The Crew Dragon is scheduled to dock at the space station at about 11:00 pm Monday, November 16.

SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk in 2002, has leapfrogged its much older rival Boeing, whose program has foundered after a failed test of its

uncrewed Starliner.

But SpaceX's success won't mean the US will immediately stop purchasing seats from the Russian [space](#) agency, said Bridenstine.

"We want to have an exchange of seats where American astronauts can fly on Russian Soyuz rockets and Russian cosmonauts can fly on commercial crew vehicles," he said, explaining it was necessary in case either program was down for a period of time.

SpaceX has been operating [space station](#) re-supplying flights with the cargo version of the Dragon since 2012.

The next crewed mission is expected to blast off at the end of March 2021, carrying one European, one Japanese and two American [crew](#) members.

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Citation: SpaceX-NASA launch postponed to Sunday due to weather (2020, November 13) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-11-spacex-nasa-postponed-sunday-due-weather.html>

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