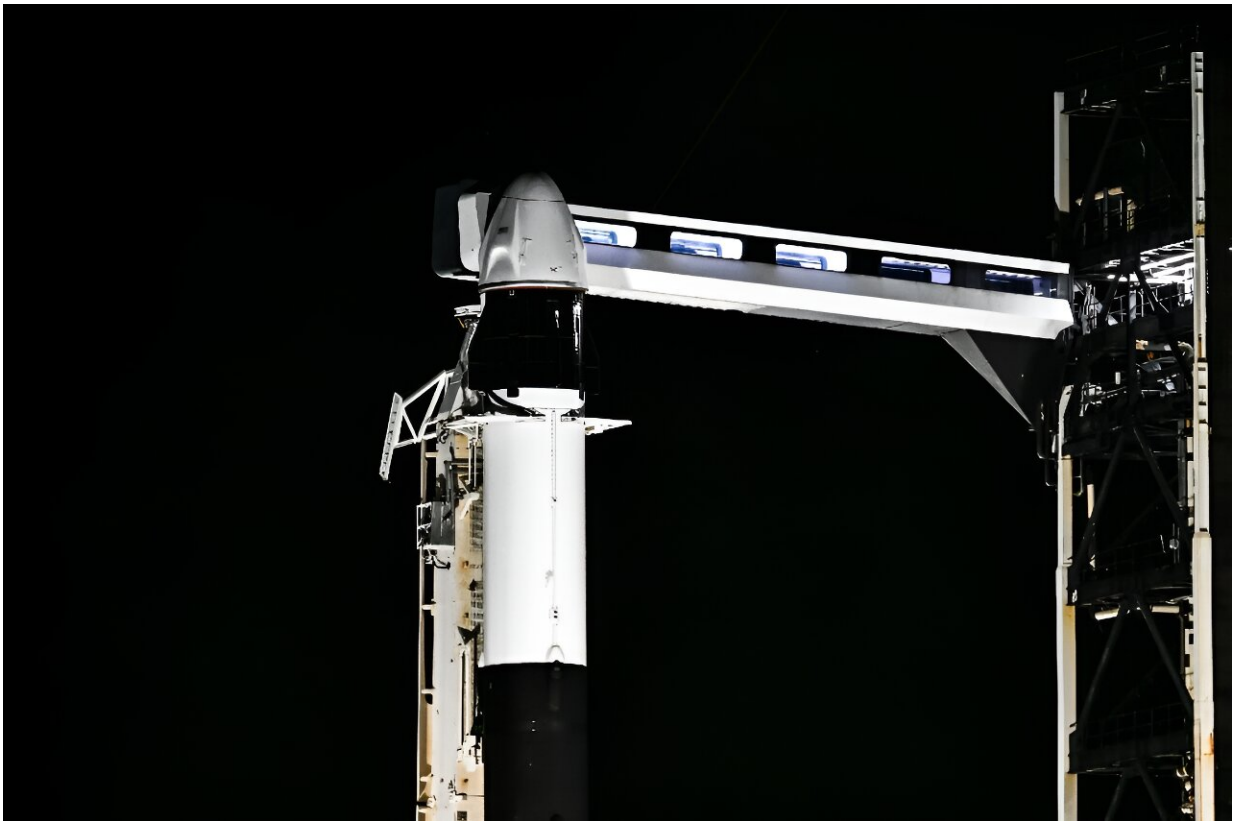


SpaceX Polaris Dawn mission set to launch early Friday

September 3 2024



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Crew Dragon Resilience capsule sits on Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center ahead of the Polaris Dawn Mission in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on August 28, 2024.

The SpaceX Polaris Dawn mission, a multiday orbital expedition set to feature the first-ever spacewalk by private citizens, is now scheduled to

launch on Friday, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

An operations plan released by the agency indicates a four-hour launch window opening at 3:33 am (0733 GMT) on Friday from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, with backup opportunities on Saturday and Sunday. Elon Musk's company has not yet commented on the new launch window.

Organized by billionaire entrepreneur Jared Isaacman, the Polaris Dawn mission aims to reach a peak altitude of 870 miles (1,400 kilometers)—the highest for any crewed mission in over half a century, since NASA's Apollo program.

The highlight of the mission is set to be the [first spacewalk](#) by a four-member crew composed entirely of non-professional astronauts, who will be wearing sleek, newly developed SpaceX extravehicular activity (EVA) suits.

The launch was delayed twice last week, initially due to a technical issue with the launch tower and subsequently because of weather constraints affecting the splashdown phase.

Complicating matters further, a separate SpaceX Falcon 9 mission lost its first stage booster, which typically performs a precision upright landing on a drone ship.

This incident led to a temporary grounding, since lifted, of the prolific launch vehicle heavily relied upon by NASA and private companies for deploying astronauts and satellites into orbit.

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