Russian booster rocket puts US satellite in orbit
8 June 2017

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.

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.
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 Roscocmos via AP)

In this image made from video provided by State Space Corporation Roscocmos, 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 Roscocmos via AP)

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

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.