

Image: Dragon lifts off

4 April 2018



Credit: European Space Agency

The latest Dragon cargo vehicle was launched to the International Space Station on 2 April, taking with it ESA's Atmosphere-Space Interactions Monitor.

Mounted in Dragon's cargo bay, this suite of instruments will search for high-altitude electrical discharges associated with [stormy weather](#). It is the first time that such a set of sensitive cameras, light sensors and X- and gamma-ray detectors are flying together to study the inner anatomy of luminous phenomena in Earth's [upper atmosphere](#) and the link with bursts of high-energy radiation. Read more about the monitor [here](#).

Dragon will dock with the Space Station on 4 April, with installation of the monitor expected on 13 April on the outside of Europe's Columbus laboratory. Once it has been switched on and thoroughly checked for about a month, then the fascinating observations can begin.

Provided by European Space Agency

APA citation: Image: Dragon lifts off (2018, April 4) retrieved 27 June 2019 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-image-dragon.html>

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