



SpaceX Deploys 10,000 Starlink Satellites in Orbit

Description

SpaceX has achieved a significant milestone by deploying over 10,000 Starlink satellites in low Earth orbit for the first time. This achievement comes less than seven years after the company launched its first collection of satellites in May 2019.

The successful launch took place on the night of March 16, 2026, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Robert Goddard's launch of the first liquid-fueled rocket. The Falcon 9 rocket, which has been used in 615 flights, lifted off at 10:19 p.m. PDT.

The rocket took off from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, marking the 17th orbital launch from this site this year. A little over eight minutes after launch, the Falcon 9's first stage booster successfully landed on a drone ship in the Pacific Ocean, making this the 184th landing on that vessel.

In addition to its growing satellite constellation, SpaceX has reported over 10 million active customers for its Starlink service across 160 countries. Recent activations include connectivity for Niue, Kuwait, and the Central African Republic.

Experts view this achievement as remarkable. Dr. Jonathan McDowell, an orbital tracker, noted that the vast number of satellites requires tens of thousands of manoeuvres to avoid collisions, a feat not previously seen.

Looking ahead, SpaceX plans to launch larger Version 3 satellites using its Starship rocket, although a specific launch date has not yet been announced. These new satellites are expected to offer significantly more capacity compared to previous models.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. How many Starlink satellites has SpaceX deployed for the first time?

- Option: 5,000
- Option: 10,000
- Option: 15,000
- Option: 20,000

2. When did SpaceX launch its first collection of satellites?



- Option: May 2019
- Option: March 2020
- Option: April 2021
- Option: June 2018

3. What time did the Falcon 9 rocket lift off on March 16, 2026?

- Option: 10:00 p.m. PDT
- Option: 10:19 p.m. PDT
- Option: 10:30 p.m. PDT
- Option: 11:00 p.m. PDT

4. From which base did the Falcon 9 rocket take off?

- Option: Cape Canaveral
- Option: Vandenberg Space Force Base
- Option: Kennedy Space Center
- Option: Los Angeles Air Force Base

5. How many active customers has SpaceX reported for its Starlink service?

- Option: 5 million
- Option: 10 million
- Option: 15 million
- Option: 20 million

6. How many orbital launches has SpaceX conducted from Vandenberg Space Force Base this year?

- Option: 14
- Option: 15
- Option: 16
- Option: 17

True-False

- 7. SpaceX launched its first collection of satellites in 2020.
- 8. The Falcon 9 rocket has been used in over 600 flights.
- 9. SpaceX has activated its Starlink connectivity in over 150 countries.
- 10. The Falcon 9's booster successfully landed on a drone ship after launching.



11. Dr. Jonathan McDowell is a rocket scientist.
12. SpaceX plans to launch larger Version 3 satellites using its Starship rocket.

Gap-Fill

13. SpaceX has deployed over 10,000 Starlink satellites in low Earth orbit for the first time in _____ 2026.
14. The Falcon 9 rocket was used in _____ flights as of the launch on March 16, 2026.
15. SpaceX has reported over _____ million active customers for its Starlink service.
16. Recent activations include connectivity for _____, Kuwait, and the Central African Republic.
17. The Falcon 9's first stage booster made its _____ landing on a drone ship in the Pacific Ocean.
18. Experts note that the vast number of satellites requires _____ of manoeuvres to avoid collisions.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 10,000 2. May 2019 3. 10:19 p.m. PDT 4. Vandenberg Space Force Base 5. 10 million 6. 17

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. March 14. 615 15. 10 16. Niue 17. 184th 18. tens of thousands

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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