



SpaceX Launches ViaSat-3 F3 Satellite Aboard Falcon Heavy

Description

SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket successfully launched on April 29, 2026, carrying the ViaSat-3 F3 satellite from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. This launch marks the 12th flight of the Falcon Heavy since its debut in 2018 and demonstrates the rocket's capabilities in providing advanced communications.

The Falcon Heavy, standing 70 metres tall and using 27 Merlin engines, lifted off at 10:13 a.m. EDT with an impressive thrust of 5 million pounds. Approximately 2.5 minutes after liftoff, the two side boosters separated from the central core, which continued its mission to place the satellite into orbit. The side boosters safely returned to Earth, making landings at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The successful deployment of the satellite occurred nearly five hours after launch, following a series of engine burns to guide it to its designated orbit. The ViaSat-3 F3 satellite is the final member of the ViaSat-3 constellation, which aims to enhance broadband capacity, focusing on the Asia-Pacific region. It is expected to add over one Terabit per second of capacity to the existing network.

Dave Abrahamian, Vice President at Viasat, highlighted the significance of this launch, noting the improvements in satellite technology over the past decade. The new satellites offer more flexibility than traditional models, allowing for better service across regions as demand changes. Following the launch, the satellite will undergo a two-month process to reach its operational position in orbit.

Vocabulary List:

1. **capabilities** //,keɪpə'bɪlətɪz// (noun): things a machine or person can do
2. **thrust** //θrʌst// (noun): a strong push that moves something forward
3. **boosters** //'bu:stərz// (noun): additional rocket parts that help lift a vehicle
4. **separated** //'sepə'reɪtɪd// (verb): moved away from something they were attached to
5. **deployment** //dɪ'plɔɪmənt// (noun): when something is put into its useful place
6. **constellation** //,kɒnstə'leɪʃən// (noun): a group of satellites working together in space

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



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1. What was carried by the Falcon Heavy rocket during its launch on April 29, 2026?
 - Option: Starlink satellites
 - Option: ViaSat-3 F3 satellite
 - Option: Hubble Space Telescope
 - Option: Mars rover
 2. What is the height of the Falcon Heavy rocket?
 - Option: 50 metres
 - Option: 70 metres
 - Option: 90 metres
 - Option: 110 metres
 3. How many Merlin engines does the Falcon Heavy use?
 - Option: 17
 - Option: 20
 - Option: 27
 - Option: 30
 4. At what time did the Falcon Heavy lift off on April 29, 2026?
 - Option: 10:00 a.m. EDT
 - Option: 10:13 a.m. EDT
 - Option: 10:30 a.m. EDT
 - Option: 10:45 a.m. EDT
 5. Where did the side boosters of the Falcon Heavy land?
 - Option: NASA Kennedy Space Center
 - Option: Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
 - Option: Fort Lauderdale
 - Option: Orlando
 6. What is the expected capacity addition of the ViaSat-3 F3 satellite to the existing network?
 - Option: 500 Megabits per second
 - Option: 1 Terabit per second
 - Option: 2 Terabits per second
 - Option: 10 Terabits per second

True-False



7. Falcon Heavy's launch on April 29, 2026, was its first flight.
8. The ViaSat-3 F3 satellite is part of a constellation aimed at enhancing broadband capacity.
9. The side boosters of Falcon Heavy did not return safely to Earth.
10. Dave Abrahamian is a Vice President at NASA.
11. The Falcon Heavy rocket uses 27 Merlin engines for its launch.
12. The satellite will take two weeks to reach its operational position in orbit after launch.

Gap-Fill

13. The Falcon Heavy rocket successfully launched on April 29, 2026, carrying the ViaSat-3 F3 satellite from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. This launch marks the _____ flight of the Falcon Heavy.
14. The ViaSat-3 F3 satellite is designed to enhance broadband capacity, focusing on the _____ region.
15. The Falcon Heavy lifted off with an impressive thrust of _____ pounds.
16. The successful deployment of the satellite occurred nearly five _____ after launch.
17. Following the launch, the satellite will undergo a _____ process to reach its operational position in orbit.
18. The Falcon Heavy rocket uses _____ Merlin engines to operate.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. ViaSat-3 F3 satellite 2. 70 metres 3. 27 4. 10:13 a.m. EDT 5. Cape Canaveral Space Force Station 6. 1 Terabit per second

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 12th 14. Asia-Pacific 15. 5 million 16. hours 17. two-month 18. 27

CATEGORY



1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

POST TAG

1. B2
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Falcon Heavy
5. Level 4
6. spaceX
7. ViaSat-3

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