



ULA Fails to Launch Critical US Military Satellite

Description

Those statements indicated that the Space Force would likely transfer the GPS intended for the next Vulcan rocket to another launch vehicle. This change has been confirmed. On Friday, Space Systems Command announced that GPS III SV10 will now be launched using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket in late April.

Each GPS III satellite weighs over four tons at launch. The Space Force has certified only SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets, along with ULA's Vulcan, for such missions. SpaceX's reusable boosters allow for frequent launches, enabling the company to accommodate new missions on short notice.

Colonel Ryan Hiserote, director of the National Security Space Launch program, said, "With this change, we are answering the call for rapid delivery of advanced GPS capability while the Vulcan anomaly investigation continues." He added that this demonstrates the team's flexibility and commitment to exploring all options for reliable national launches.

This situation is challenging for United Launch Alliance (ULA), which was previously the sole launch provider for the US military. SpaceX began its involvement in military launches in 2018 after winning the right to compete against ULA. The Pentagon opened its contracts to competitive bidding, resulting in SpaceX winning a significant number of recent contracts.

The Pentagon's policy has been to ensure access to space since the 1990s, following several launch failures. While ULA has a backlog of over \$8 billion in military contracts, SpaceX currently provides the most reliable access to space.

Vocabulary List:

1. **transfer** //træns'fɜː// (verb): move something from one place to another
2. **certified** //'sɜːtə'faɪd// (verb): officially approved as meeting required rules
3. **reusable** //,ri:ju'zəbəl// (adjective): can be used more than once
4. **anomaly** //ə'naməli// (noun): something that is unusual or not normal
5. **flexibility** //,fleksə'bɪləti// (noun): ability to change or adapt when needed
6. **backlog** //'bæk,lɔːg// (noun): a large amount of work not yet done

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Which rocket will GPS III SV10 now be launched with?
Option: Vulcan rocket
Option: Falcon 9
Option: Atlas V
Option: Soyuz
2. What is the weight of each GPS III satellite at launch?
Option: Two tons
Option: Over four tons
Option: One ton
Option: Five tons
3. Who is the director of the National Security Space Launch program?
Option: Colonel John Smith
Option: Colonel Ryan Hiserote
Option: General Mark Turner
Option: Major Alex Jones
4. In what year did SpaceX begin its involvement in military launches?
Option: 2015
Option: 2016
Option: 2018
Option: 2020
5. What does ULA stand for?
Option: United Launch Alliance
Option: Universal Launch Agency
Option: United Launch Association
Option: Underground Launch Alliance
6. The Pentagon's policy has been to ensure access to space since which decade?
Option: 1980s
Option: 1990s
Option: 2000s
Option: 2010s



True-False

7. GPS III SV10 will be launched using ULA's Vulcan rocket.
8. SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets are certified for military missions.
9. ULA has a backlog of over \$8 billion in military contracts.
10. The Space Force aims to decrease the speed of GPS delivery.
11. SpaceX won the right to compete against ULA before 2018.
12. The change announced by the Space Force has not been confirmed.

Gap-Fill

13. GPS III satellites weigh over _____ tons at launch.
14. The GPS satellite for the next Vulcan rocket was confirmed to be launched using _____'s Falcon 9 rocket.
15. The Space Force has certified only SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets, along with _____'s Vulcan, for military missions.
16. Colonel Ryan Hiserote mentioned that the team demonstrates flexibility and _____ for reliable national launches.
17. Since the _____, the Pentagon's policy has been to ensure access to space.
18. After the competitive bidding, SpaceX won a significant number of recent _____ contracts.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Falcon 9 2. Over four tons 3. Colonel Ryan Hiserote 4. 2018 5. United Launch Alliance 6. 1990s



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

Gap-Fill: 13. four 14. SpaceX 15. ULA 16. commitment 17. 1990s 18. military

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What factor is often challenged during a meteor shower?

- Option: Visibility
- Option: Altitude
- Option: Density
- Option: Ecosystem

2. Which type of system is designed for flexibility and durability?

- Option: Robotic
- Option: Reusable
- Option: Certified
- Option: Simulated

3. What type of mission may involve exploring new ecosystems?

- Option: Breakthrough
- Option: Intervention
- Option: Expedition
- Option: Transfer

4. Which term refers to the variety of life in a particular ecosystem?

- Option: Ecosystem
- Option: Breakthrough
- Option: Biodiversity
- Option: Microbial

5. Which technology is often used to simulate complex biological interactions?

- Option: Robotic
- Option: Supercomputer
- Option: Genome
- Option: Anomaly

6. What type of organisms are often involved in the microbial ecosystem?

- Option: Robotic
- Option: Microscopic



- Option: Fragile
- Option: Reusable

7. What is often required to combat environmental anomalies?

- Option: Visibility
- Option: Intervention
- Option: Transfer
- Option: Deadline

8. Which structure contains the complete genetic information of an organism?

- Option: Microbial
- Option: Genome
- Option: Enzyme
- Option: Altitude

9. What process involves water infiltrating through small openings?

- Option: Seep
- Option: Transfer
- Option: Breakthrough
- Option: Fragment

10. What is often a critical point that can jeopardize a project?

- Option: Ecosystem
- Option: Fragment
- Option: Deadline
- Option: Robotic

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The spacecraft needed to _____ at the station to complete the transfer.

12. The fireball broke apart into several _____ that fell to the ground.

13. Operating the robotic system at high altitude can be very _____.

14. The _____ of microbial life can indicate the health of an ecosystem.

15. Scientists studied the strange _____ detected in the data.

16. Researchers discovered a new _____ that could improve biological processes.



17. The project required _____ to adapt to unforeseen challenges.
18. A significant _____ in technology was achieved during the research phase.
19. The study focused on _____ interactions within the soil environment.
20. The system was built to be _____ under various operational conditions.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The sky was illuminated by a fireball that streaked across the night.
22. Fog often reduces visibility for drivers on the road.
23. Robotic systems are increasingly used in manufacturing for their precision.
24. The product was certified for safety and effectiveness before it could be sold.
25. Emergency intervention may be necessary in the event of a natural disaster.
26. The rainforest is a rich ecosystem known for its high levels of biodiversity.
27. An ecosystem consists of all living and non-living things in a particular environment.
28. The density of the population influences urban planning and resource management.
29. The scientist ran a simulated experiment to predict the outcome.
30. The research team utilized a supercomputer to analyze vast amounts of data.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Visibility 2. Robotic 3. Expedition 4. Biodiversity 5. Supercomputer 6. Microscopic
7. Intervention 8. Genome 9. Seep 10. Deadline

Gap-Fill: 11. dock 12. fragments 13. challenging 14. density 15. anomaly 16. enzyme 17. flexibility
18. breakthrough 19. microbial 20. robust

Matching sentence: 1. fireball 2. visibility 3. robotic 4. certified 5. intervention 6. biodiversity 7. ecosystem
8. density 9. simulated 10. supercomputer

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4



POST TAG

1. B2
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 4
5. satellite
6. ULA
7. US military

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