

# Thaxted Astronomical Society

News

Features

NF0089

SpaceX

Uber Of Space Travel?

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

- **SpaceX launched 143 satellites from a Falcon 9 rocket on Sunday**
- **133 were commercial and government satellites on SpaceX rideshare mission**
- **The other 10 were Starlink satellites to join SpaceX's internet megaconstellation**

SpaceX has made history this week, after launching a record 143 spacecraft on a single mission.

The satellites were launched into orbit on board a Falcon 9 rocket at 10:00 EST (15:00 GMT) on Sunday.

They included 133 commercial and government spacecraft, which were the first to be launched as part of SpaceX's SmallSat Rideshare Program - a programme providing access to space for small satellite operators. .

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

The launch was originally scheduled for Saturday, but was delayed by a day due to unfavourable weather.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off at 10:00 EST (15:00 GMT) on Sunday from the Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

It flew south along the eastern coast of Florida on its way to space, before releasing the satellites into orbit.

Following the launch, the first stage of the rocket booster safely returned to Earth, landing on a droneship in the Atlantic Ocean.

SpaceX said: 'Falcon 9's first stage booster previously supported launch of Crew Dragon's second demonstration mission, the ANASIS-II mission, a Starlink mission, and launch of Dragon's 21st cargo resupply mission to the International Space Station.

'Following stage separation, Falcon 9's first stage landed on the Of Course I Still Love You droneship, stationed in the Atlantic Ocean.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

The rocket carried 143 satellites on board - a new record number. Previously, this record was held by an Indian satellite launch in 2017, which carried 104 satellites.

The 143 satellites included 48 Earth imaging satellites dubbed SuperDoves from Planet, 17 tiny communications satellites for Kepler, and 30 small satellites for the US and Europe packaged by Exolaunch, as well as small capsules of human ashes arranged by Celestis, a spaceflight memorial company.

Ten Starlink satellites were also released during the launch, bringing the total number of satellites in the internet constellation to almost 1,000.

The Starlink constellation is designed to provide a low-latency, broadband internet system to meet the needs of consumers across the globe.

SpaceX explained: 'With performance that far surpasses that of traditional satellite internet, and a global network unbounded by ground infrastructure limitations, Starlink will deliver high speed broadband internet to locations where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

SpaceX hopes its ridesharing programme will make it easier for small companies to launch spacecraft into orbit.

Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX, tweeted: 'Excited about offering low-cost access to orbit for small companies!'

However, the programme isn't exactly cheap - prices start at \$1 million (£730,000), depending on the size and type of spacecraft.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

The 143 satellites included 133 commercial and government spacecraft, as part of SpaceX's SmallSat Rideshare Program, which provides access to space for small satellite operators seeking a reliable, affordable ride to orbit, according to the company



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

### WHAT IS SPACEX'S RIDESHARE PROGRAMME?

SpaceX's SmallSat Rideshare Program provides access to space for small satellite operators seeking a reliable, affordable ride to orbit, according to the company.

SpaceX hopes the programme will make it easier for small companies to launch spacecraft into orbit.

However, the programme isn't exactly cheap - prices start at \$1 million (£730,000), depending on the size and type of spacecraft.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

### ELON MUSK'S SPACEX SET TO BRING BROADBAND INTERNET TO THE WORLD WITH ITS STARLINK CONSTELLATION OF SATELLITES

Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched the fifth batch of its 'Starlink' space internet satellites - taking the total to 300.

They form a constellation of thousands of satellites, designed to provide low-cost broadband internet service from low Earth orbit.

The constellation, informally known as Starlink, and under development at SpaceX's facilities in Redmond, Washington.

Its goal is to beam superfast internet into your home from space.

While satellite internet has been around for a while, it has suffered from high latency and unreliable connections.

Starlink is different. SpaceX says putting a 'constellation' of satellites in low earth orbit would provide high-speed, cable-like internet all over the world.



<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

### ELON MUSK'S SPACEX SET TO BRING BROADBAND INTERNET TO THE WORLD WITH ITS STARLINK CONSTELLATION OF SATELLITES

The billionaire's company wants to create the global system to help it generate more cash.

Musk has previously said the venture could give three billion people who currently do not have access to the internet a cheap way of getting online.

It could also help fund a future city on Mars.

Helping humanity reach the red planet is one of Musk's long-stated aims and was what inspired him to start SpaceX.

The company recently filed plans with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to launch 4,425 satellites into orbit above the Earth - three times as many that are currently in operation.

'Once fully deployed, the SpaceX system will pass over virtually all parts of the Earth's surface and therefore, in principle, have the ability to provide ubiquitous global service,' the firm said.

'Every point on the Earth's surface will see, at all times, a SpaceX satellite.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-9182055/Need-lift-SpaceX-launches-record-spacecraft-cosmic-rideshare-program.html>

## The Uber of space travel? Elon Musk's SpaceX launches a record 143 satellites into orbit as it kicks off its cosmic 'rideshare' programme

Daily Mail 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 >

### ELON MUSK'S SPACEX SET TO BRING BROADBAND INTERNET TO THE WORLD WITH ITS STARLINK CONSTELLATION OF SATELLITES

The network will provide internet access to the US and the rest of the world, it added.

It is expected to take more than five years and \$9.8 billion (£7.1bn) of investment, although satellite internet has proved an expensive market in the past and analysts expect the final bill will be higher.

Musk compared the project to 'rebuilding the internet in space', as it would reduce reliance on the existing network of undersea fibre-optic cables which criss-cross the planet.

In the US, the FCC welcomed the scheme as a way to provide internet connections to more people.