

Thaxted Astronomical Society

News

Features

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SpaceX Fixing Brightness
Of Starlink Satellites

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8248925/SpaceX-fixing-brightness-Starlink-satellites.html>

Elon Musk says his company SpaceX is 'fixing' the brightness of its Starlink satellites after complaints from astronomers that they are obscuring the stars

Daily Mail 23rd April 2020 >

- Elon Musk said satellites launched from next month will also have 'sunshades'
- SpaceX launched 60 more satellites on Wednesday as part of its constellation
- 422 of the internet satellites are in orbit with another 500 launching this year

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has said his company is 'fixing' the brightness of his ultra-bright constellation of satellites, which are disrupting the night sky for astronomers.

Stargazers have been puzzled by the unusual brightness of Musk's satellite constellation, called Starlink, which aims to provide satellite internet access.

The brightness of the constellation is due to the angle of the solar panels as the satellites rise to orbit altitude, Musk explained.

This results in more sunlight than usual being reflected, making the satellites look similar to stars.

SpaceX has so far launched 422 Starlink satellites into orbit, including 60 launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida on Wednesday.

Responding to a Twitter user, Musk said his company is now adjusting the angle of the solar panels on the more than 400 satellites currently in operation.

SE... We Shall See.....