

Daily Space Snapshot

March 7, 2026 • Fresh stories, source-linked

TOPLINE

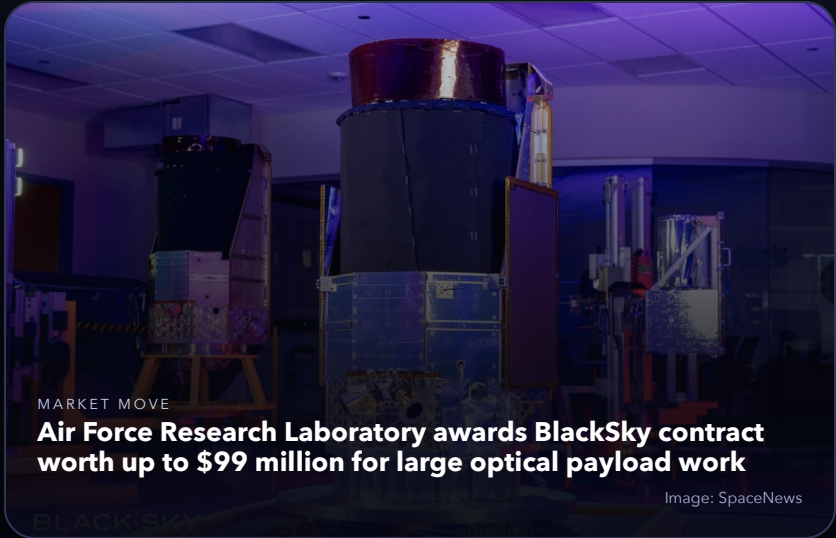
Launch cadence + lunar surface ops are leading today's signal mix.

NASA has now formally picked ULA's Centaur 5 as the upper stage for SLS on Artemis 4 and 5, locking in a major architecture change for missions expected no earlier than 2028. Spaceflight Now reported the contract details after Jared Isaacman said NASA wanted to simplify the fleet, accelerate manufacturing, and reduce complexity by moving closer to a standardized configuration. The decision gives NASA a concrete hardware path instead of leaving the upper-stage question open.



TOP SIGNAL
NASA selects ULA's Centaur 5 as the new SLS upper stage for Artemis 4 and 5

Image: Spaceflight Now



MARKET MOVE
Air Force Research Laboratory awards BlackSky contract worth up to \$99 million for large optical payload work

Image: SpaceNews



POLICY
NASA's new Artemis plan puts fresh pressure on SpaceX and Blue Origin to deliver lunar landers

Image: Ars Technica Space



LAUNCH OPS
Planet delays some Middle East imagery after its satellites revealed Iranian attacks on U.S. bases

Image: Ars Technica Space



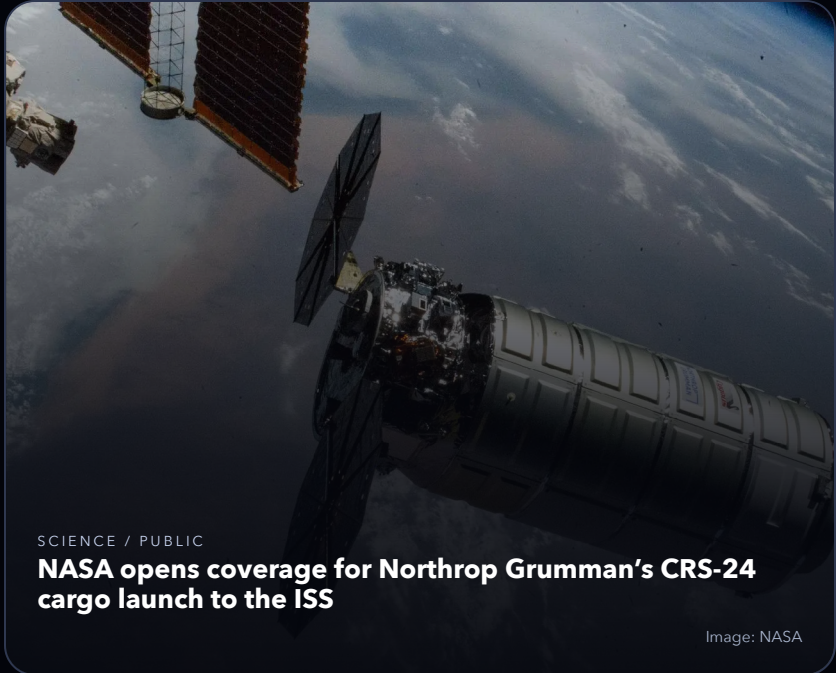
PROGRAM WATCH
Eutelsat completes \$5.8 billion refinancing package for OneWeb refresh and IRIS² plans

Image: SpaceNews



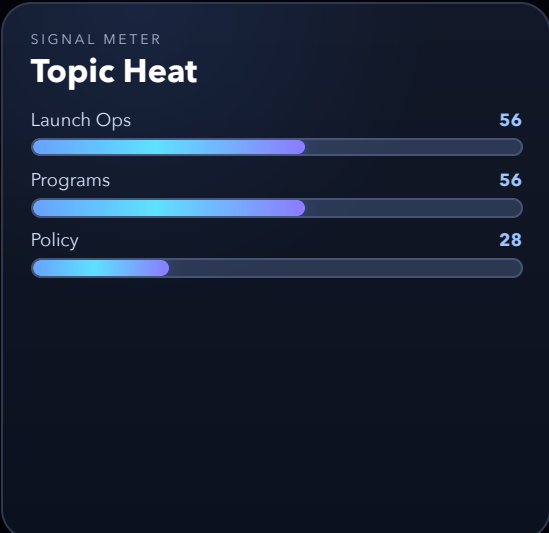
HARDWARE
Will Proba-3 phone home? ESA's eclipse-making spacecraft pair hits a serious anomaly

Image: Space.com



SCIENCE / PUBLIC
NASA opens coverage for Northrop Grumman's CRS-24 cargo launch to the ISS

Image: NASA



LAUNCH WINDOW

Upcoming Launches

Mar 8, 2026	Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA	Starlink Group 17-18
Mar 10, 2026	Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, U...	Stairway To Seven
Mar 10, 2026	Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florid...	EchoStar XXV
Mar 11, 2026	Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, U...	Starlink Group 17-31
Mar 12, 2026	Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florid...	Starlink Group 10-48

