

# Daily Space Snapshot

March 31, 2026 • Fresh stories, source-linked

TOPLINE

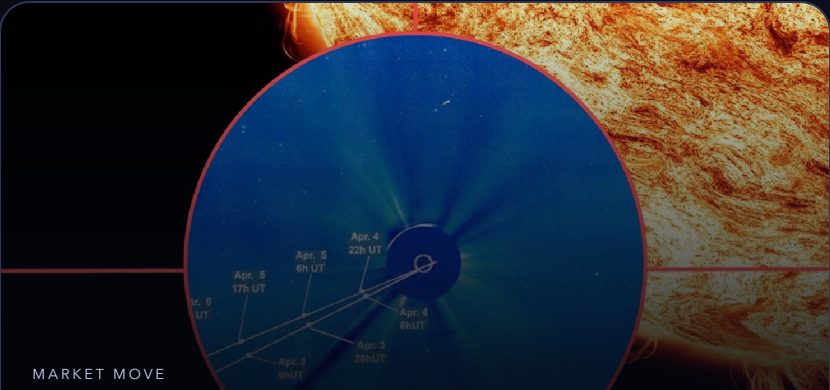
## Launch cadence + lunar surface ops are leading today's signal mix.

The first eight minutes of the Artemis 2 mission are some of its most crucial. The astronauts aboard Orion will ride NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket into space, dropping the two solid rocket boosters at its sides, followed by the vehicle's 212-foot tall (64.6 meters) first stage on its way to orbit.




**TOP SIGNAL**  
Here's what the Artemis 2 astronauts will be doing on each day of NASA's historic moon mission

Image: Space.com



**MARKET MOVE**  
Comet MAPS faces a make-or-break moment as it dives toward the sun on April 4 – could it shine in the daytime sky?

Image: Space.com



**POLICY**  
China targets 140 launches in 2026 amid commercial space surge

Image: SpaceNews




**LAUNCH OPS**  
Varda flies navigation payload, heat shield tests on sixth reentry mission

Image: SpaceNews



**PROGRAM WATCH**  
Landsat Reveals Reservoir Changes and Bathymetry

Image: NASA



**HARDWARE**  
Live coverage: Falcon 9 booster to fly for record 34th time on Starlink delivery mission

Image: Spaceflight Now



**SCIENCE / PUBLIC**  
After more than 53 years, humans may finally return to the Moon this week

Image: Ars Technica Space

**SIGNAL METER**

### Topic Heat

Launch Ops	42
Programs	67
Policy	13

**LAUNCH WINDOW**

### Upcoming Launches

- Apr 1, 2026 • Plesetsk Cosmodrome, Russia**  
Meridian-M n°21L
- Apr 1, 2026 • Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA**  
Artemis II
- Apr 2, 2026 • Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, ...**  
Starlink Group 10-58
- Apr 2, 2026 • Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA**  
Starlink Group 17-35
- Apr 3, 2026 • Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, China**  
Demo Flight

**NARRATIVE BALANCE**

### Signal Split

Momentum Signal	67%
Caution Signal	33%

67% momentum vs 33% caution across 24 stories from the last 24 hours (14 momentum-leaning, 10 caution-leaning). Momentum leads, with caution concentrated around execution and launch risk.