

Daily Space Snapshot

April 12, 2026 • Fresh stories, source-linked

TOPLINE

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

Rocket Lab has won a contract from Japanese radar satellite company iQPS for three additional Electron launches. WASHINGTON – Rocket Lab has won a contract from Japanese radar satellite company iQPS for three additional Electron launches. Rocket Lab announced April 9 it signed a contract with iQPS, or Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space, for three Electron launches from Launch Complex 1 in New Zealand starting in 2028. The companies did not disclose terms of the contract.



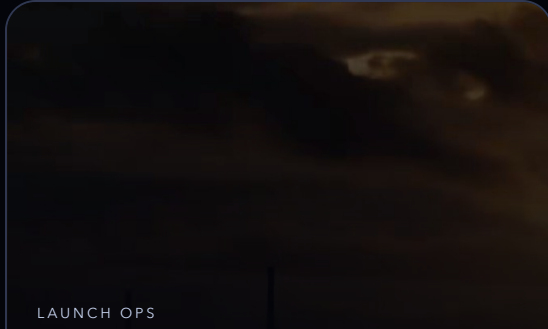
TOP SIGNAL
Rocket Lab wins contract for three more iQPS launches
 Image: SpaceNews



MARKET MOVE
Ship 39 and Booster 19 Roll out for Static Fire Testing
 Image: NASASpaceflight



POLICY
Cygnus XL separation confirmed. The spacecraft is expected to reach the @Space_Station for capture on Monday, April 13 at 12:50 p.m. ET
 Image: X · SpaceX




LAUNCH OPS
Every milestone. Every maneuver. Every moment mattered. @NASA's Orion performed as designed, flying farther, setting records and bringing th
 Image: X · Lockheed Martin Space



PROGRAM WATCH
Starlink Group 10-24 launch window watch
 Image: Next Spaceflight



HARDWARE
Falcon 9 launches Cygnus cargo spacecraft to the ISS
 Image: SpaceNews



SCIENCE / PUBLIC
NASA Science, Cargo Launch Aboard Northrop Grumman CRS-24
 Image: NASA

SIGNAL METER

Topic Heat

Launch Ops	77
Programs	62
Policy	12

LAUNCH WINDOW

Upcoming Launches

- Apr 14, 2026 • Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, China**
CAS Space launch listing
- Apr 14, 2026 • Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida...**
Starlink Group 10-24
- Apr 15, 2026 • Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, U...**
Starlink Group 17-27
- Apr 16, 2026 • Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida...**
BlueBird Block 2 FM2
- Apr 18, 2026 • Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, U...**
Starlink Group 17-22

NARRATIVE BALANCE

Signal Split

Momentum Signal	73%
Caution Signal	27%

73% momentum vs 27% caution across 13 stories from the last 24 hours (11 momentum-leaning, 2 caution-leaning). Momentum leads, with caution concentrated around execution and launch risk.