

# North Korea readies rocket launch

Weeks after testing what it claimed was its first hydrogen bomb, North Korea is to launch a rocket with a similar trajectory – and probably similar or slightly larger in size – to the Unha-3 launched in 2012

**Sohae launch site:** Launch expected between Feb 8-25, from 07:00-12:00 local time (nine hours ahead of GMT)

**UNHA-3:** Three-stage rocket successfully put what North Korea described as communications satellite into orbit in December 2012



**Third stage**  
Thought to be identical to upper stage of Iranian **Safir** missile

**Second stage:**  
Soviet-era **Scud** missile technology. Lack of advanced propellant indicates rocket suited for satellite launch, but unfit to deliver warhead

Oxidizer  
Liquid fuel

**First Stage**  
Powered by cluster of four **Nodong**-class engines