

Rideshare rocket launches 143 satellites

Elon Musk's SpaceX *SmallSat Rideshare Program* has set a record by launching 143 satellites into orbit in a single rocket mission

Payload being readied for launch

133 spacecraft, including CubeSats and microsats

Second stage

Fairing Separates in space

TRANSPORTER-1 MISSION

2 +3mins: Fairing opens

4 +60-90mins: Satellites deploy

10 Starlink satellites

First stage

Separation

Flip manoeuvre

Re-entry burn

Ascent

There are around **3,000** active satellites orbiting Earth

Nine **Merlin** engines power first stage

1 Jan 24, 10.00 EST: Lift-off

3 +10mins: First stage lands on recovery droneship

SpaceX did not release detailed manifest of payload, so purpose of some satellites is unclear. With spacecraft as small as shoe boxes on board, some will be hard to track, adding to concerns of collisions in space