ROCKET LAB USA 2020

DON'T STOP ME NOW PRESS KIT JUNE 2020

LAUNCHING ON ELECTRON VEHICLE TWELVE: **'DON'T STOP ME NOW'**

ROCKET·LAB

ROCKET LAB PRESS KIT
'DON'T STOP ME NOW' 2020

LAUNCH INFORMATION

LAUNCH WINDOW
11 JUNE - 24 JUNE 2020 NZT

LAUNCH SITE
LAUNCH COMPLEX 1
MAHIA PENINSULA, NZ

Daily launch opportunity: 16:43– 18:32 NZT / 04:43 – 06:32 UTC

Watch the live launch webcast: www.rocketlabusa.com/live-stream.

For information on launch day visit **www.rocketlabusa.com/next-mission/** and follow Rocket Lab on Twitter **@RocketLab**.

LIFT OFF OF THE BIRDS OF A FEATHER MISSION | January 2020

MISSION OVERVIEW

'Don't Stop Me Now' is a rideshare mission for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra Space scheduled to launch from Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1 in New Zealand.

This mission will be Rocket Lab's 12th Electron launch and second mission in 2020.

ROCKET LAB'S DON'T STOP ME NOW MISSON PATCH

INTEGRATION OF THE ANDESITE SATELLITE AT ROCKET LAB HQ

This mission's name and patch is in dedication to Scott Smith, a Rocket Lab board member and friend to the team who passed away in February 2020. The S.S.S. on the patch represents his full name (Stanford Scott Smith) and 'Don't Stop Me Now' was his favourite song by Queen.

PAYLOADS ONBOARD 'DON'T STOP ME NOW'

The CubeSat manifested by NASA on this mission is part of NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI), which provides hands-on space hardware development and learning opportunities to universities, high schools and non-profit organizations.

Created by electrical and mechanical engineering students and professors at Boston University, the ANDESITE (Ad-Hoc Network Demonstration for Extended Satellite-Based Inquiry and Other Team Endeavors) spacecraft will use a wireless network of lightweight minisatellites to measure the strength and direction of electrical currents flowing in and out of Earth's magnetic field, the impact of which can affect radio communications and electrical systems on Earth. ANDESITE's acquired datasets will help researchers better understand the makeup of Earth's polar lights (aka aurora) and better predict potentially dangerous solar storms.

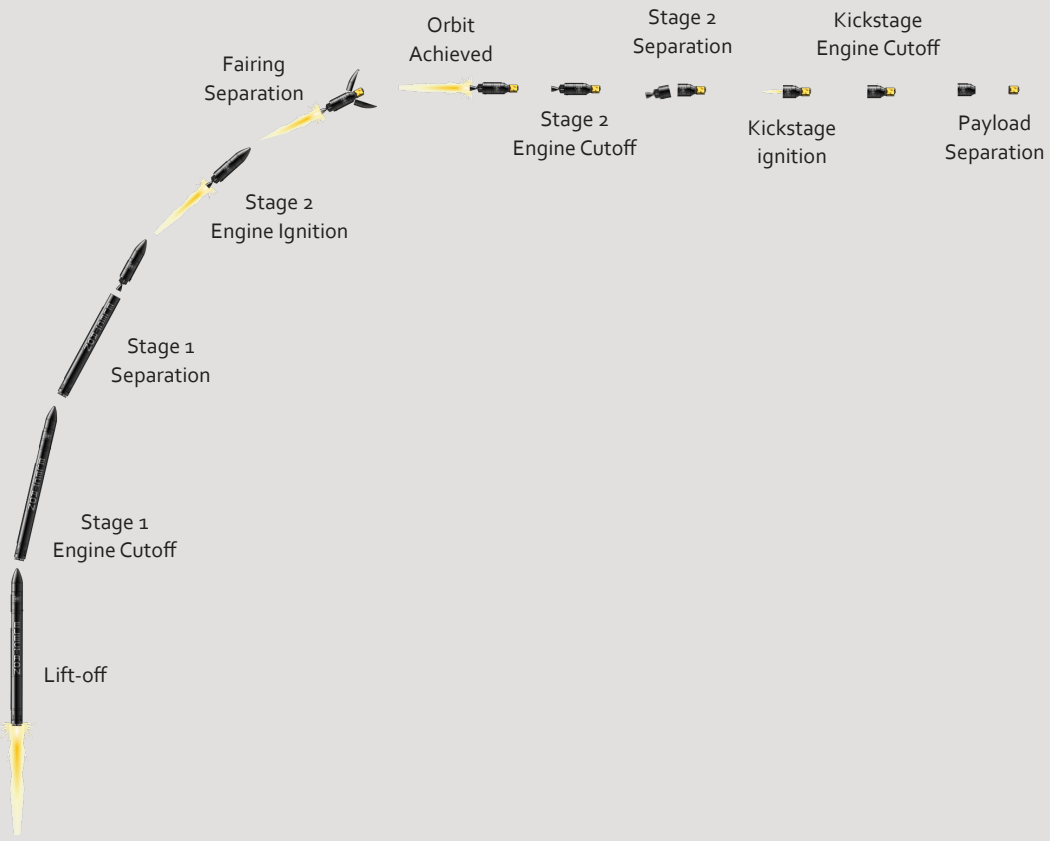
The ANDESITE satellite follows on from Rocket Lab's first ELaNa (Educational Launch of Nanosatellites) launch for NASA, the ELaNa-19 mission, which launched 10 educational satellites to orbit on Electron in December 2018.

Don't Stop Me Now also carries three payloads designed, built and operated by the NRO under the Rapid Acquisition of a Small Rocket (RASR) contract vehicle. RASR allows the NRO to explore new launch opportunities that provide a streamlined, commercial approach for getting small satellites into space. This mission follows Rocket Lab's first dedicated mission for the NRO, Birds of a Feather, which was launched on 31 January 2020 NZT from Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1.

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra Space, together with the Australian Government, have developed the M2 Pathfinder – a satellite to test communications and other technologies in low Earth orbit, including reprogrammable software-based radio capabilities.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

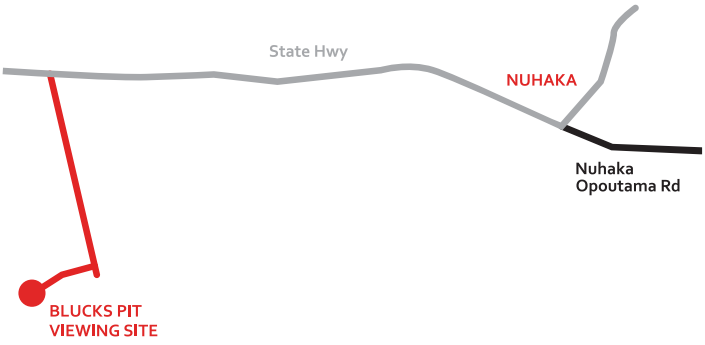
HOURS:MINUTES:SECONDS FROM LIFT-OFF	EVENT
-06:00:00	Road to the launch site closed
-04:00:00	Electron lifted to vertical position and filled with fuel
-02:30:00	Launch pad personnel exit area in preparation for launch
-02:00:00	Electron filled with liquid oxygen (LOx)
-02:00:00	Safety zones are activated for designated marine space
-00:30:00	Safety zones are activated for designated airspace
-00:18:00	The Launch Director conducts a go/no-go poll of launch operators to confirm Electron is ready for launch
-00:02:00	Autosequence commences and Electron's on-board computers initiate the launch sequence
-00:00:02	Ignition of the nine Rutherford engines powering Electron's first stage
00:00:00	Lift-off
+00:02:36	Main Engine Cut Off (MECO) on the vehicle's first stage
+00:02:39	Stage 1 of Electron separates
+00:02:42	The vacuum Rutherford engine on Stage 2 ignites
+00:03:12	The Electron's fairing separates
+00:06:31	Battery hot-swap is performed
+00:08:52	Electron reaches orbit
+00:09:02	Stage 2 separation from Kick Stage
+00:51:34	The Curie engine on the Kick Stage ignites
+00:53:10	Curie engine cuts off
~+00:60:00	Payloads deployed



VIEWING A LAUNCH

VIEWING IN PERSON

Wairoa District Council has allocated a rocket launch viewing area for the public near Nuhaka, accessible via Blucks Pit Road. Visit www.visitwairoa.co.nz/welcome-to-wairoa/space-coast-new-zealand/ for more information. Scrubs and postponements are likely during launch windows, so visitors to the Blucks Pit viewing site should anticipate multiple postponements, sometimes across several days.



LC-1 LAUNCH VIEWING AREA | Blucks Pit Road, near Nuhaka

LAUNCH VIEWING AREAS DISTANCE FROM ROCKET LAB LC-1

As Rocket Lab's top priority during the test launch is public safety, there are safety zones in place during a launch and no access will be permitted to Onenui Station where Launch Complex 1 is located.

LIVESTREAM

The best way to view a launch is via Rocket Lab's live video webcast. This offers the best views of launch and includes helpful commentary about the launch process. A livestream will be made available approximately 15 - 20 minutes prior to a launch attempt. Rocket Lab will post links to the webcast when live via Facebook and Twitter. The livestream is viewable at www.rocketlabusa.com/live-stream and Rocket Lab's YouTube channel.

ROCKET LAB'S LIVESTREAM OF 'BIRDS OF A FEATHER ' MISSION | January, 2020

LAUNCH FOOTAGE AND IMAGES

Images and video footage of the 'Don't Stop Me Now' launch will be available shortly after a successful mission at www.rocketlabusa.com/gallery

Images and footage of previous Rocket Lab launches can also be found at that link.

SOCIAL MEDIA

For real time updates on the launch follow the Rocket Lab Twitter page @RocketLab

@RocketLabUSA @RocketLab

CONTACTS

MORGAN BAILEY
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS
+64 27 538 9039
morgan@rocketlabusa.com

GOODBYE PAD RECYCLE TIME; HELLO FREQUENT & RESPONSIVE LAUNCH

Construction is progressing quickly on Rocket Lab's newest launch pad, Pad B.

This third Rocket Lab launch pad – the second located within Launch Complex 1 in Mahia, New Zealand – is the latest in a series of developments by Rocket Lab to enable frequent and reliable launch capability in response to evolving opportunities in space.

The operation of two launch pads within Rocket Lab's private complex will eliminate the time currently required between launches for a full pad recycle, and instead provide the capability to launch back-to-back within hours – not days, weeks or months..

The new pad, to be named Launch Complex 1 Pad B, is located adjacent to the existing pad at Launch Complex 1 in New Zealand to make use of existing shared infrastructure– including the vehicle integration facility with room to accommodate multiple Electrons at once, two 100k class cleanrooms for payload processing, expanded range control, and VIP customer experience area.

With the concrete runway poured and all civil works nearing completion, the next major construction milestone will be the delivery and installation of the pad's 7.6-ton strongback and launch mount for the Electron vehicle within the next few months.

Licensed to launch up to 120 missions every year, concurrent launch campaigns from Launch Complex 1 will be possible by late 2020.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROCKET LAB'S LC-1 PAD B | March, 2020

RENDER OF ROCKET LAB'S LC-1 PAD B COMPLETED

CONSTRUCTION OF ROCKET LAB'S LC-1 PAD B | January, 2020

CONTACT US

rocketlabusa.com
+64 9 373 2721
enquiries@rocketlabusa.com

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@rocketlab
RocketLabUSA
facebook.com/rocketlabusa