NROL-111 Launch Press Kit

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

NRO/PAO [10028] ID 5.21

NROL-111

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is proud to support its second dedicated launch out of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, in partnership with NASA Wallops, Northrop Grumman, Virginia Space, and the U.S. Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center.

The NROL-111 mission will carry three payloads designed, built and operated by the agency and will launch aboard a Northrop Grumman Minotaur I rocket NET June 15, 2021 from Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport's Pad 0B. NROL-111 supports NRO's overall national security mission to provide intelligence data to United States' senior policy makers, the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense.

The NROL-111 mission patch shows a flying wild boar in traditional aviator gear. Boars are a good spirit guide to call on when you have ambitious goals, and inspire tenacity in the hunt to achieve them. The three stars represent the three payloads designed, built, and operated by NRO.

NRO Mission

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is an Intelligence Community element and Department of Defense organization responsible for developing, acquiring, launching and operating America's reconnaissance satellites, as well as operating associated data processing facilities in support of national security. Using NRO data, the National Security Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and other NRO mission partners produce intelligence products for the President, Congress, national policymakers, warfighters, and civil users.

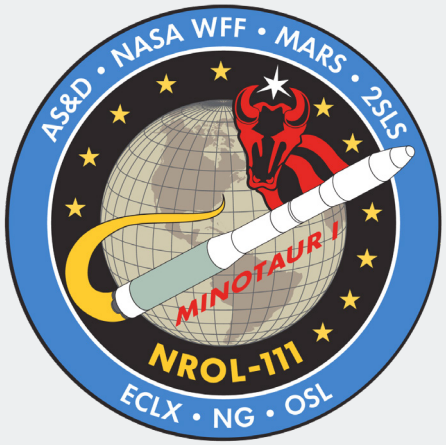
The NRO uses a variety of satellites to meet these mission needs – from small sats to more traditional satellites. This approach allows the NRO to pursue a hybrid overhead architecture designed to provide global coverage against a wide range of intelligence requirements, carry out research and development efforts, and assist emergency and disaster relief efforts in the U.S. and around the world.

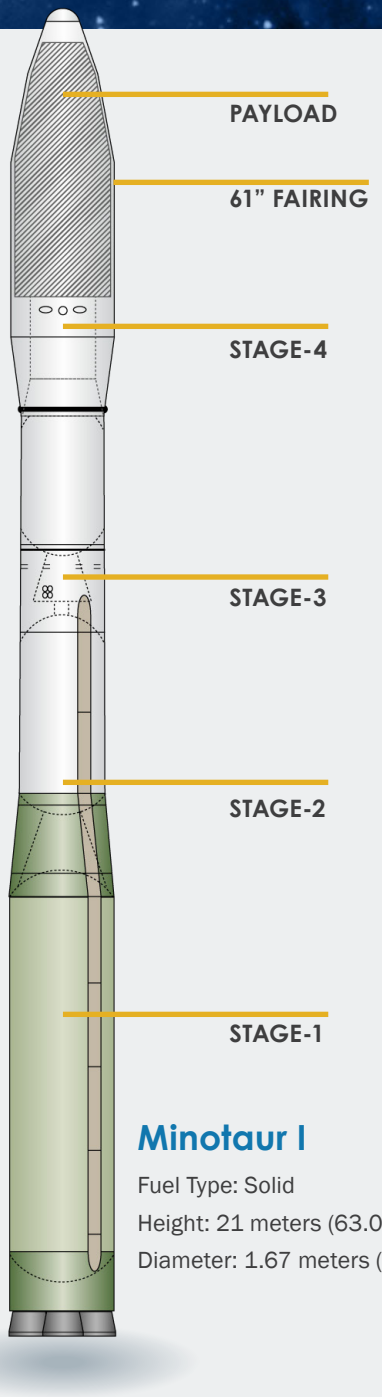
Rocket & Launch Facts

Minotaur I is a four-stage solid fuel space launch vehicle utilizing Minuteman rocket motors for its first and second stages, reusing motors that have been decommissioned as a result of arms reduction treaties. The Stage 3 and 4 motors are the Orion 50XL and Orion 38, respectively. Minotaur I is capable of launching payloads up to 580 kg (1,278 lbs) into low Earth Orbit. To date, Minotaur I has conducted 11 missions with a 100% success rate, delivering 62 satellites into orbit.

Northrop Grumman

Northrop Grumman Minotaur rockets have 100% success rate, launching missions out of every major U.S. spaceport. Under the U.S. Space Force Orbital/Suborbital Program-3 (OSP-3) contract, Northrop Grumman integrates, tests and provides space launch services for the Minotaur I, IV, V, and VI family of rockets. The OSP-3 contract is managed by the Launch Enterprise Small Launch and Targets Division, which is part of U.S. Space Force's Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC).





Minotaur I

Fuel Type: Solid
Height: 21 meters (63.0 ft)
Diameter: 1.67 meters (5 ft 6 in)

Graphic credit: NG

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Site Info

Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport Pad 0B

NROL-111 will launch from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) Pad 0B. The MARS launch complex is collocated on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. In 1997, the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, known as “Virginia Space”, entered into a Reimbursable Space Act Agreement with NASA, which provided for permitted use of land on NASA Wallops Island for the MARS launch pads. Virginia Space also applied for and was granted an FAA license to launch to orbit. This led to establishment of the Virginia Space Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), located on the southern portion of NASA Wallops Island. Wallops partners with Virginia Space to provide various support services to MARS launches. Today, Virginia Space, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, owns and operates Pad 0B (left), Pad 0A (center, with the large water tower), Launch Complex-2 (LC-2), a dedicated Payload Processing Facility (PPF) capable of processing multiple, yet segregated, payloads from arrival to encapsulation in one facility, and the MARS UAS Airfield, a unique multi domain test environment for unmanned systems featuring over 330 square miles of Restricted Airspace extending from the surface to space.

MARS Launch Pads: Pad 0B (bottom) and Pad 0A (center, with the large water tower)

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Recent Successes

The NRO is the best in the world at providing overhead intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to more than 500,000 government users—including every member of the Intelligence Community, two dozen domestic agencies, our nation's military, lawmakers, and decision makers.

-Dr. Troy Meink, Principal Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office

In April 2021, the National Reconnaissance Office launched its NROL-82 mission aboard a United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California in our first launch of 2021. NROL-111 will be our second launch of the year and our second dedicated launch from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in twelve months.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, NRO last year successfully launched six missions from two countries. We started the year with our first dedicated mission launch from New Zealand in collaboration with Rocket Lab and the New Zealand Space Agency. NROL-151 was the first launch under NRO's Rapid Acquisition of a Small Rocket (RASR) contract. RASR enables NRO to explore new opportunities for launching small satellites through a streamlined, commercial approach. Our second launch of 2020 was also from New Zealand with these same partners, carrying three payloads designed, built and operated by NRO, as well as two additional CubeSats, one for NASA and the other from the University of New South Wales, Canberra Space.

In July 2020, NRO collaborated with NASA Wallops, Northrop Grumman, U.S. Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center and Virginia Space/Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport to launch our first dedicated launch out of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Virginia. NROL-129 launched aboard a Northrop Grumman Minotaur IV rocket.

In November and December 2020, we collaborated with United Launch Alliance (ULA), the U.S. Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center, and the 45th Space Wing to launch NROL-101 on an Atlas V rocket and NROL-44 on a Delta IV Heavy rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.

Finally, also in December 2020 we collaborated with SpaceX for the first time since 2017 to launch NROL-108 on a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida. NRO is proud to have had several firsts throughout 2020 and we're looking forward to continued mission success in 2021.

Visit **https://www.nro.gov/News/Press-Releases/** to view the latest launch press releases.

Future Launches

NRO launch announcements will be released on NRO's official social media accounts

@natreconofc

@NationalReconnaissanceOffice

Live on Launch Day

Live Video - www.youtube.com/user/NASAWallops

Live Updates - Follow us on Twitter on launch day

NROL-129 launches aboard a Northrop Grumman Minotaur IV rocket at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, Virginia, on July 15, 2020.

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