



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Release # 05-13
December 6, 2013

NROL-39 Lifts Off on December 5

A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) payload was successfully launched aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex-3E, Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, at 11:14 PST, on December 5, 2013.

“This launch adds another powerful tool to the nation’s national security toolkit. It once again demonstrates the efficiencies of CubeSat rideshare on an NRO mission. I couldn’t be more pleased and proud of the combined government and contractor launch team,” said Colonel Clint Hunt, United States Air Force, Director, Office of Space Launch, NRO.

In addition to the main NRO payload, this rocket carried to orbit the Government Experimental Multi-Satellite (GEMSat) rideshare payload on a specially designed Aft Bulkhead Carrier, located on the aft section of the Atlas V Centaur upper stage. The GEMSat deployed 12 experimental CubeSats, or “nano-satellites,” seven sponsored by the NRO and five sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NROL-39 is the last of two NRO launches in 2013. The next NRO launch is on schedule for March 2014 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

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The NRO is a joint Department of Defense-Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America’s intelligence satellites to meet the national security needs of our nation.