

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

NRO L-70



CAPE CANAVERAL



NROL-44

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Throughout our history, the NRO has pushed boundaries — finding better, faster ways to collect and deliver critical information that can only be obtained from the vantage point of space. As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to building on our legacy of innovation and harnessing the infinite potential of space.

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Dr. Chris Scolese
NRO Director

NRO Mission

For more than sixty years, the NRO has developed, acquired, launched and operated the satellites that are the foundation for America's advantage and strength in space. Using a diversified and resilient architecture of spacecraft, NRO collects and delivers the best space-based intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance content on the planet. NRO data supports the National Security Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, and other NRO mission partners to produce intelligence products for the President, Congress, national policymakers, warfighters, and civil users. The NRO's hybrid overhead architecture is 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.



Courtesy ULA

NROL-70

The snow leopard illustrates the quiet strength with which we provide an advantage to the nation and its allies.

To read more about NRO launches and previous patches, visit www.NRO.gov/launch



NROL-82

Rocket & Launch Facts

United Launch Alliance's Delta IV Heavy is a heavy-lift launch vehicle, the largest type of the Delta IV family and one of the world's most powerful rockets. The Delta IV Heavy configuration comprises a common booster core (CBC), a cryogenic upper stage and a five-meter-diameter payload fairing (PLF). The Delta IV Heavy employs two additional CBCs as liquid rocket boosters to augment the first-stage CBC. The Delta IV Heavy can lift 28,370kg (62,540 lbs) to low-Earth orbit and 13,810kg (30,440lbs) to geostationary-transfer orbit. It is an all-liquid-fueled rocket, consisting of an upper stage, one main booster and two strap-on boosters.

Payload Fairing (PLF)

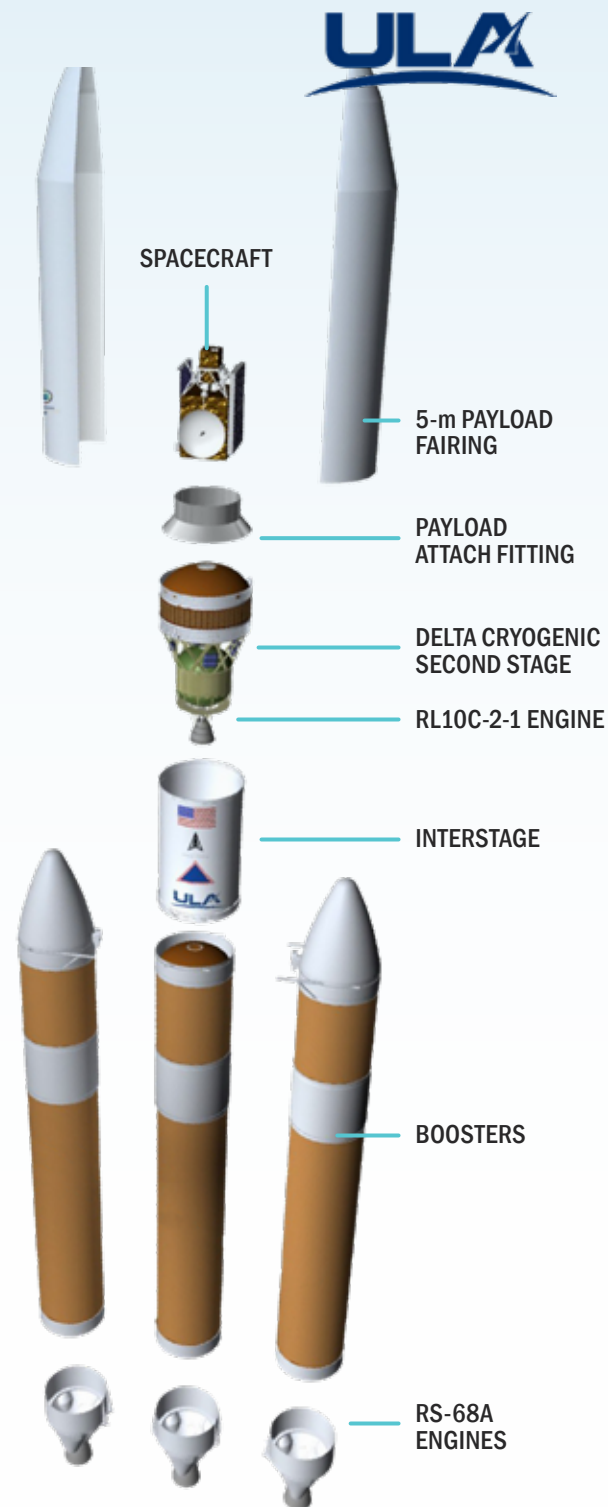
The PLF encapsulates the spacecraft to protect it from the launch environment on ascent. The 19.8m (65ft) long PLF makes the vehicle's height approximately 71.5m (235ft).

Delta Cryogenic Second Stage (DCSS)

The DCSS is a cryogenic liquid-hydrogen/liquid-oxygen fueled vehicle, with a single RL10C-2-1 engine that produces 24,750lbf (110kN) of thrust.

Boosters

The Delta IV booster propulsion is provided by three liquid hydrogen and liquid-oxygen-burning RS-68A engines. Each RS-68A engine produces 705,250 lbf (3,137 kN) of thrust for a combined total liftoff thrust of more than 2.1 million lbf (9.4 mega-Newtons).



Launch Site

Space Launch Complex-37 (SLC-37)

NROL-70 will launch from Space Launch Complex-37 (SLC-37) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. SLC-37 was built in 1962 as Complex 37 to support the Saturn 1 and Saturn 1B programs. Between 1964 and 1968, it supported a total of eight unmanned Saturn launches but was eventually mothballed in 1971. In 1998, Boeing retrofitted it to launch the then-new Delta IV. The first Delta IV Heavy launch from SLC-37 was in December 2004. NROL-70 will be the eleventh Delta IV Heavy launch from Cape Canaveral, and the final Delta IV heavy launch in history.

Launch History

The Delta IV was created to fulfill the requirements of the United States Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) program. The inaugural launch of the Delta IV occurred in 2002. NROL-70 is the last ever launch of ULA's Delta IV of either medium or heavy variants. NROL-70 builds upon a long legacy of NRO Delta IV Heavy launches at Cape Canaveral dating back to 2009.



NROL-26
1.17.2009



NROL-32
11.21.2010



NROL-15
6.29.2012



NROL-37
6.11.2016



NROL-44
12.10.2020



NROL-68
6.11.2023

NRO | CAPE CANAVERAL | DELTA IV HEAVY



NROL-15

2023 Success

SILENTBARKER/NROL-107, launched in September of 2023, was a joint NRO-US Space Force Space Domain Awareness mission to meet DoD and Intelligence Community space protection needs. It was the last NRO mission launched on the ULA-provided Atlas V rocket.

NROL-68 launched from Cape Canaveral on June 22, 2023. This mission was in partnership with the U.S. Space Force's Space Launch Delta 45, Space Systems Command, and United Launch Alliance, as the penultimate Delta IV Heavy rocket.

Visit www.NRO.gov to view launch press releases.

NROL-107 Sep. 10, 2023

Future Launches

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

Additional information on upcoming launches will be made available at www.NRO.gov.

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MEDIA@NRO.MIL



703.808.1198



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