

SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND

Media Release



SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
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Space Systems Command's EPS-R Program Completes Factory Confidence Test

Summary: The Enhanced Polar System-Recapitalization (EPS-R) program successfully completed Factory Confidence Tests on both of its MILSATCOM payloads. As a mission that addresses the National Defense Strategy's integrated deterrence through its partnership with American allies, the completion of this test signifies that each payload is ready to support the program's launch window in mid-July.

DULLES, VIRGINIA - Space Systems Command's (SSC) Enhanced Polar System-Recapitalization (EPS-R) completed Factory Confidence Tests (FCT) on both its first and second payloads in March and April 2024, respectively. The completion of this test signifies that each payload meets all technical requirements and is ready for shipment to Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, to support the program's launch window in mid-July.

The EPS-R mission addresses the National Defense Strategy's integrated deterrence through its partnership with American allies and will provide secure communication for North Polar users. EPS-R consists of two Extremely High Frequency (EHF) tactical Military Satellite Communications (MILSATCOM) payloads, as well as an upgraded Control and Planning Segment – Recapitalization (CAPS-R) ground system. Developed by Northrop Grumman, the program boasts the first ever operational U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) payloads to be hosted on an allied satellite. The two host space vehicles, as well as launch services, are commercially procured by Space Norway's Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission (ASBM). In addition to EPS-R, the GEOStar-3 spacecrafts will host payloads for the Norwegian military (X-band) and commercial SATCOM provider ViaSat (Ka-band).

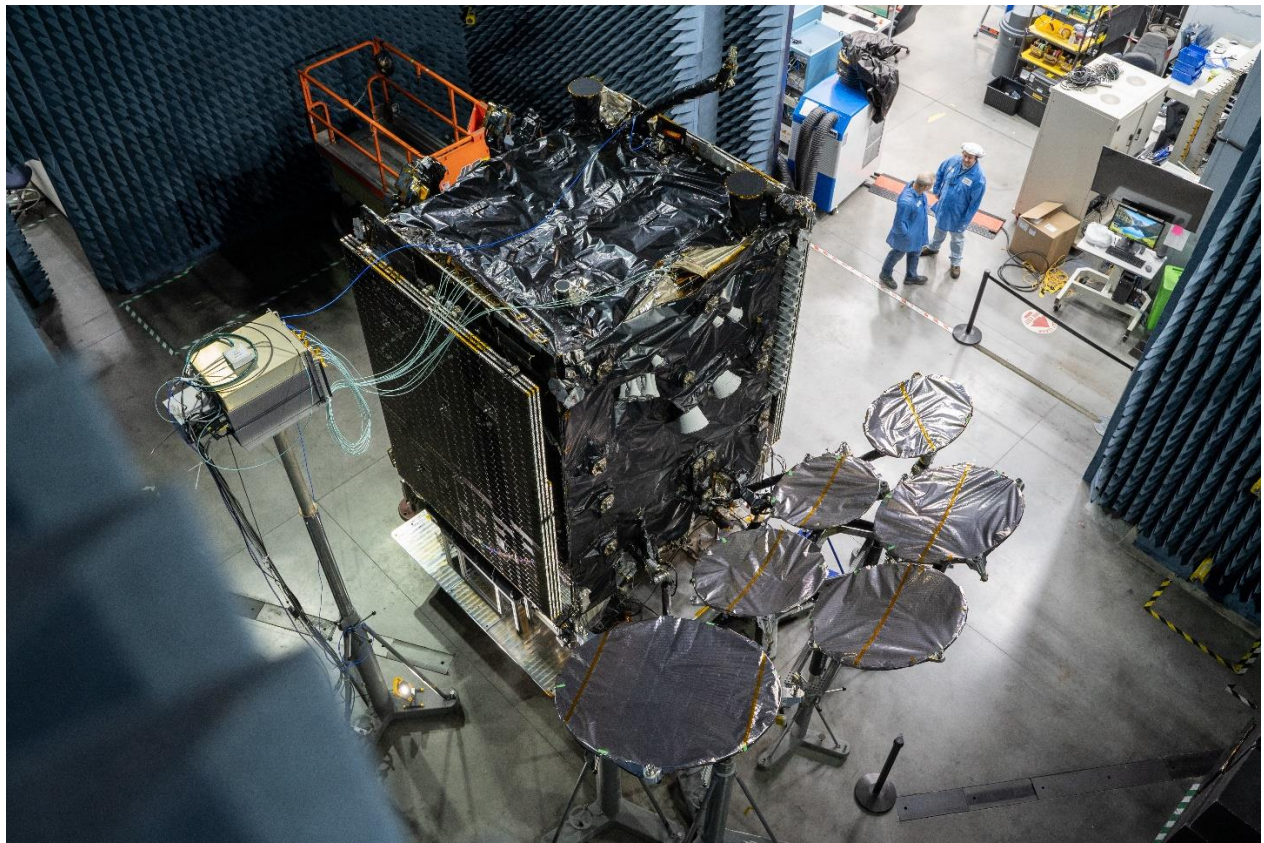
"The purpose of this test is to ensure the payload's readiness for shipment to the launch site," said U.S. Space Force Capt. Dale Hartley, EPS-R deputy branch chief. "This includes verifying payload state of health as well as hardware and software configurations. Accomplishing this is a huge milestone for us and a testament to months of hard work and coordination from the U.S. Space Force, Space Norway, and Northrop Grumman."

About Space Systems Command

Space Systems Command is the U.S. Space Force's field command responsible for acquiring, developing, and delivering resilient capabilities to protect our nation's strategic advantage in, from, and to space. SSC manages a \$15.6 billion space acquisition budget for the Department of Defense and works in partnership with joint forces, industry, government agencies, academic and allied organizations to outpace emerging threats. Our actions today are making the world a better space for tomorrow.

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Media representatives can submit questions for response regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil



U.S. Space Force's Space Systems Command (SSC) and Space Norway successfully completed Factory Confidence Test (FCT) testing of both Enhanced Polar System-Recapitalization (EPS-R) payloads at a Northrop Grumman facility between March 2024 and April 2024, in Dulles, Virginia. Designed by SSC's Military Communications & Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Program Executive Office, EPS-R is an Extremely High Frequency (EHF) MILSATCOM system to extend legacy EPS services in the Arctic region for U.S. forces across the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) into the early/mid-2030s. (U.S. Space Force courtesy photo by Northrop Grumman)