

stellar times

weekly · pathway to first human on mars

as of 09/20/2026 · flight week · baa.business

f14 orbital + 26 v3

09/28/2026



high

uncrewed lunar

03/15/2027



medium

uncrewed mars cargo

11/07/2028



medium

first human on mars

09/12/2033



low

this flight week

- f14 net 09/28/2026 · first sustained orbit + 26 v3 · no tower catch
- faa / license still a gate · window ~08:15 et class (secondary)
- spcx unlock ~09/24/2026 · up to ~328.4m shares eligible (reported)
- thesis: f14 is necessary. cryo + tanker still decide 09/12/2033.

confidence:



high



medium



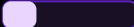
low

sources: spacex f14 · next spaceflight · aviation week · unlock secondary

how to read

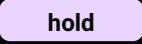
tiny legend only · confidence bars · gate chips

confidence (left to right fill)

confidence:  high  medium  low

	dated public target + coherent secondary profile
	company-stated near term · incomplete proof
	program commitment / hard physics still open

gate chips

	on the critical path this week · clear to attempt
	active uncertainty · can move the clock
	hard gate not cleared · do not invent progress

rules

no invented stats · estimates labeled · unknowns = n/a · gens never blended · no launch outcome until it flies

this flight week · f14

net 09/28/2026 · orbital + 26 v3 · pending regulatory approval

profile

orbit	~275 km · ~6 orbits · ~10 hr
splashdown	pacific west of chile (ship)
booster	gulf boostback + controlled splash · no catch
payload	26 starlink v3 (group 31-1)
cameras	3 sats inspect heatshield
window	~75 min · ~08:15 et open (secondary)
gate	orbit only after deorbit redundancy check
abort path	shorten to 2 or 5 orbits if unhealthy

operator card

- first sustained earth orbit attempt
- first operational v3 deploy
- ~26 tbps class add (co. 1 tbps/sat)
- ~10× vs falcon 9 v2 mini launch (co.)
- slip from 09/22 09/28
- faa / weather / stack still live
- do not invent outcome

sources: spacex.com/launches/starship-flight-14 · next spaceflight · aviation week sep 18

f14 success criteria

what must clear this attempt · confidence · status

gate	conf	status	if miss
attempt (liftoff)	high	go	week slip · v3 start gun moves
orbital insertion	medium	watch	orbital claim delayed
26 v3 deploy	medium	watch	capacity slips quarters
deorbit redundancy gate	medium	watch	shortened 2/5 orbit path
booster gulf landing burn	medium	watch	reuse cadence pressure
heatshield / camera inspect	medium	watch	tile reuse story soft
full profile (all above)	medium	watch	partial success narrative

fan line: orbit + real v3 payload is the highlight. operator line: redundancy gate is the adult check.

what slips 09/12/2033

f14 necessary · not sufficient · cryo / tanker still hard gates

bottleneck	status	conf	what slips
cryo propellant transfer	hold	low	no tanker path = commitment dies
tanker cadence	hold	low	pad/ship rate caps crewed windows
heatshield reuse	watch	medium	flight rate stalls · cost breaks
faa / license cadence	watch	medium	flight weeks stack right
hls lunar demos	watch	medium	moon-first delay pushes mars
f14 orbital + v3	go	high	start gun only · clears orbit claim

partial f14 = weeks/quarters slip. missing cryo = the commitment becomes rhetoric.

starlink gens · split

v3 start gun on f14 · never blend generations

gen	status	class	note
v1	legacy	n/a	do not blend
v1.5	legacy	n/a	do not blend
v2 mini	established	workhorse*	falcon 9 cadence
v2 mini optimized	established	v2 mini class	mass / build iterates

26 v3 ≈ +26 tbps this mission · ~10× vs falcon 9 v2 mini launch (co. claim)

pricing · sourced only (us)

- standard ~\$120/mo most locations / \$90 high-availability (starlink.com pdf)
- priority tiers from \$250 · other products = n/a this week
- optical secondary: six 400 gbps isls/v3 · fleet ~11,000 leo (secondary press)

*secondary class labels · uplink ~160 gbps/v3 (spacex) · check live tiers before client quotes

industry around spacex

rk1b cadence + mars telecom protest · amazon leo ye26

rocket lab

- high electron cadence mid-sep
- synspective / electron 96 ~sep 19
- ~95th electron around sep 11
- gao protest sep 11 vs nasa
- ~\$700m mars telecom blue origin
- delivery nlt 12/31/2028 · ops ~2030

amazon leo

- limited commercial still ye2026
- delays acknowledged · plan holds
- arianespace +6 ariane 6
- 24 ariane 6 total (sep 2026)
- no invented customer counts
- watch language · not hype

asts watch

- mention only as watch
- outcomes = n/a
- do not invent launches
- peer tape ≠ product proof
- close as-of sep 18 only
- revisit next flight week

sources: globenewswire / spacenews · space.com / satnews · aboutamazon sep 2026

spcx watch

unlock ~09/24/2026 · closes as of 09/18/2026 · no fresh sep 19–20 verify

spcx \$152.71 close 09/18/2026	unlock ~328.4m eligible ~09/24/2026	ipo ref \$135 jun 12 2026	peers tape ≠ spacex
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peer closes (as of 09/18/2026)

rklb \$64.57	asts \$58.52	lunr \$13.92
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read: unlock = eligibility, not forced selling. f14 delay + unlock = short-term volatility stack.

sources: exa/stockanalysis class · motley fool / tradingkey unlock secondary · satl n/a

next 7–14 day watchlist

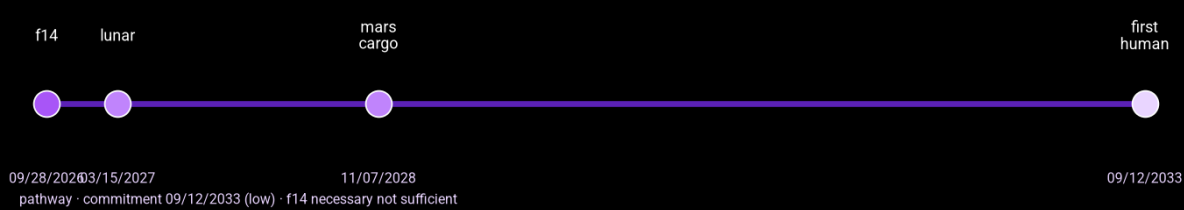
sep 20 ~oct 4 · dated items only

when	item	status	conf
09/20–09/27	faa / fcc / license traffic · stack · weather	watch	medium
09/24/2026	spcx unlock · up to ~328.4m eligible (reported)	watch	medium
09/28/2026	f14 attempt · orbit · 26 v3 · gulf burn · pacific path	go	high
post-f14	partial vs full · heatshield camera read	watch	medium
through oct 4	rklb gao protest calendar noise (secondary)	watch	low
through ye26 talk	amazon leo limited service language	watch	low

no invented outcomes · next edition updates after f14 flies or slips again

pathway reminder

moon mars cargo first human · commitment 09/12/2033



f14 orbital + 26 v3	09/28/2026	high	start gun
uncrewed lunar	03/15/2027	medium	moon before mars
uncrewed mars cargo	11/07/2028	medium	window architecture
first human on mars	09/12/2033	low	cryo+tanker required

weekly read: clear f14, then stare at cryo. that is the whole program in one sentence.

cta · next edition

flight-week readouts · program reviews · retainers

carry forward

- f14 (09/28/2026): orbit · v3 deploy · faa · no catch
- unlock (09/24/2026): eligibility overhang · watch volume
- cryo / tanker: still the hard gates for 09/12/2033
- gens stay split: v1 · v1.5 · v2 mini · v2 mini optimized · v3

talk now

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after spacex starlink, benjamin works space / ai / starlink questions

through benjamin aaron advisors

commitment: first human on mars · 09/12/2033