



### Virgin Orbit News

The specially adapted Virgin aircraft will be used for the first-ever satellite launch from the UK. It has already touched down to begin mission preparations.

The 747 is set to deploy a rocket out over the Atlantic next month to put nine spacecraft, including British-built ones, high above Earth.

Virgin Orbit's Cosmic Girl landed at Newquay Airport in Cornwall and will conduct a series of rehearsals before launch day. To mark the historical event, an RAF pilot will fly the 747 on its historic mission.



The exact launch date is awaited as permission must come from the Civil Aviation Authority, who are yet to issue the necessary licenses. The CAA is expected to give the "green light" any day.

The first UK launch mission, "Start Me Up", will be lofting nine individual small satellites for seven projects. Should the launch be successful the stock will rally significantly, conversely any delay or issue with launch would have a negative effect on ORBIT stock values.

**AMBER IOD-3** is a fully UK-developed spacecraft designed to monitor what's happening in the ocean. It's envisaged to be the first satellite in a 20-strong constellation to collect maritime intelligence.

**Prometheus-2** is a pair of small satellites, or cubesats, owned by the UK's defence research agency, the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (DSTL). They'll test new approaches to imaging and the monitoring of radio signals.

**CIRCE** is two cubesats for DSTL and the US Naval Research Laboratory. Their "space weather" instrumentation will monitor the disturbances above the Earth that arise from interactions with the Sun's magnetic and particle emissions.

The UK's RHEA Group company has developed DOVER. It's co-funded by the European Space Agency, a program called Navisp that aims to develop next-generation technologies for precise positioning, navigation and timing applications.

**ForgeStar-0** is the first satellite developed in Wales. The company behind it, Space Forge, wants to make high-fidelity computer chips and crystals in the weightless environment of space - and then bring them home.

**AMAN** is Oman's first-ever orbital mission. It is a single Earth observation satellite intended to demonstrate the future feasibility of a larger constellation. The platform has been developed in tandem with Polish partners.

**STORK-6** is produced by one of those Polish partners, SatRev. It's the next instalment of its Earth observation constellation, which it calls STORK. Virgin Orbit previously launched two spacecraft in this constellation.

The UK Space Agency will display a 21m (70ft) life-size replica of the Virgin Orbit rocket outside the Science Museum in London.

The real rocket is expected to arrive in Cornwall from California in the next few days. This inaugural launch has been made possible through cooperative agreements between the British and American governments.

Sir Richard Branson plans to expand the company's satellite launch business worldwide and the demand for the company's services is steadily increasing.

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