

Modernized GPS Satellite Launched



The fourth US Air Force modernized Global Positioning System Block IIR (GPS IIR-M) satellite was launched successfully from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station aboard a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Delta II launch vehicle.

Designated GPS IIR-17M, the satellite is the fourth in a series of eight Block IIR-M spacecraft that Lockheed Martin Navigation Systems has modernised for its customer, the Global Positioning Systems Wing, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA, USA. The Block IIR-M series includes new features that enhance operations and navigation signal performance for military and civilian GPS users around the globe.

Each IIR-M satellite includes a modernized antenna panel that provides increased signal power to receivers on the ground, two new military signals for improved accuracy, enhanced encryption and anti-jamming capabilities for the military, and a second civil signal that will provide users with an open access signal on a different frequency. The satellite launched joins three IIR-M satellites and 12 other operational Block IIR satellites within the current 28-spacecraft constellation.

<https://www.gim-international.com/content/news/modernized-gps-satellite-launched>
