

U.S. Air Force's SBIRS GEO Flight 4 Missile Warning Satellite Ships To Cape Canaveral For January Launch

SBIRS' infrared surveillance provides the U.S. with critical early missile warning

SUNNYVALE, Calif., Nov. 28, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Air Force and Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) delivered the next Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite for the [Space Based Infrared System](#) (SBIRS) to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, on October 31.

SBIRS enhances the military's ability to detect missile launches, supports ballistic missile defense, expands technical intelligence gathering, and bolsters situational awareness on the battlefield. The Air Force's next SBIRS satellite -- [GEO Flight 4](#) -- is slated to launch in January aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

The Air Force's SBIRS includes a combination of satellites in GEO orbit and hosted payloads in Highly Elliptical Orbit (HEO). A robust, [new ground control system](#) serves as the nerve center for the entire constellation, collecting large amounts of data from the satellites' powerful sensors and converting it into actionable reports for defense, intelligence and civil applications.

"SBIRS provides our military with timely, reliable and accurate missile warning and infrared surveillance information," said Tom McCormick, vice president of Lockheed Martin's Overhead Persistent Infrared systems mission area. "We look forward to adding GEO Flight 4's capabilities to the first line of defense in our nation's missile defense strategy."

Lockheed Martin manufactured the SBIRS GEO Flight 4 satellite at its Sunnyvale, California, facility. For its trip to Florida, the satellite rode in a Lockheed Martin-built [C-5 Galaxy aircraft](#) from nearby Moffett Federal Air Field in Sunnyvale.

SBIRS GEO Flight 4 follows the Air Force's GEO Flight 3 satellite, which [launched](#) on January 20, 2017, and in March sent its first images back down to Earth, a milestone known as "[first light](#)."

The next SBIRS satellites, GEO-5 and GEO-6, currently in production, incorporate Lockheed Martin's new, modernized [LM 2100 spacecraft](#) to dramatically reduce costs and cycle times, while improving resiliency and increasing the potential to incorporate future, modernized sensor suites.

The SBIRS development team is led by the Remote Sensing Systems Directorate at the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California. Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Sunnyvale, California, is the SBIRS prime contractor, with Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, Azusa, California, as the payload integrator. The 460th Space Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, operates the SBIRS system.

For additional SBIRS information, photos and video visit: www.lockheedmartin.com/sbirs.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 97,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.



SBIRS GEO Flight 4, the next Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO) satellite to join the U.S. Air Force's Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS), at Lockheed Martin's satellite manufacturing facility in Sunnyvale, California.

<https://news.lockheedmartin.com/2017-11-28-U-S-Air-Forces-SBIRS-GEO-Flight-4-Missile-Warning-Satellite-Ships-to-Cape-Canaveral-for-January-Launch>