

# First Lockheed Martin-Built GPS III Satellite Encapsulated For Dec. 18 Launch

*Advanced new satellite design to help the U.S. Air Force modernize the GPS constellation*

TITUSVILLE, Fla., Dec. 11, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Air Force's first Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT)-built [GPS III satellite](#) is now encapsulated for its planned December 18 launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

GPS III Space Vehicle 01 (GPS III SV01) underwent pre-launch processing, fueling and encapsulation at [Astrotech Space Operations](#), in Titusville, Florida. During encapsulation, GPS III SV01 was sealed in its launch fairing, an aerodynamic, nose-cone shell that protects the satellite during launch. In the coming days, the fairing-enclosed satellite will be mounted to the rocket as launch preparations continue.

GPS III SV01 is the first of an entirely new design of GPS satellite which will help the Air Force modernize today's GPS constellation with new technology and advanced capabilities. GPS III has three times better accuracy and up to eight times improved anti-jamming capabilities. Spacecraft life will extend to 15 years, 25 percent longer than any of the GPS satellites on-orbit today. GPS III's new L1C civil signal also will make it the first GPS satellite broadcasting a compatible signal with other international global navigation satellite systems, like Galileo, improving connectivity for civilian users.

"The world is dependent on GPS. More than four billion military, commercial and civilian users connect with signals generated by GPS satellites every day," said Johnathon Caldwell, Lockheed Martin's Vice President for Navigation Systems. "The launch of GPS III SV01 will be the first step in modernizing the Air Force's GPS constellation with the most powerful and resilient GPS satellites ever designed and built."

Lockheed Martin developed GPS III and manufactured GPS III SV01 at its advanced \$128-million GPS III Processing Facility near Denver. In September 2017, the Air Force declared the satellite "Available for Launch" (AFL) and had the company place it into storage. Last Summer the Air Force "called up" the satellite for launch and Lockheed Martin [delivered it to Florida](#) on August 20. The Air Force nicknamed the satellite "Vespucci" after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci.

GPS III SV01 is the first of 10 GPS III satellites originally ordered by the Air Force. GPS III SV03-08 are now in various stages of assembly and test. In August, the Air Force declared the [second GPS III "AFL"](#) and, in November, called GPS III SV02 up for 2019 launch.

In September, the Air Force selected Lockheed Martin for the [GPS III Follow On \(GPS IIIF\)](#) program, an estimated \$7.2 billion opportunity to build up to 22 additional GPS IIIF satellites with additional capabilities. GPS IIIF builds off Lockheed Martin's existing modular GPS III, which was designed to evolve with new technology and changing mission needs. On Sept. 26, the Air Force awarded Lockheed Martin a \$1.4 billion contract for support to start up the program and to contract the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> GPS III satellite.

For additional GPS III information, photos and video visit: [www.lockheedmartin.com/gps](http://www.lockheedmartin.com/gps).

## About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 100,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. This year the company received three Edison Awards for ground-breaking innovations in autonomy, satellite technology and directed energy.

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