



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

FCC Approves Next-Gen Satellite Constellation

Enabling Better, Faster Broadband throughout America

WASHINGTON, January 9, 2026 — Today, the FCC granted Space Exploration Holdings, LLC (SpaceX) a major authorization to advance its second-generation Starlink satellite system, marking a significant milestone in global broadband connectivity.

Under this grant, SpaceX is authorized to construct, deploy, and operate an additional 7,500 Gen2 Starlink satellites, bringing the total to 15,000 satellites worldwide. This expansion will enable SpaceX to deliver high-speed, low-latency internet service globally, including enhanced mobile and supplemental coverage from space. The FCC's decision today benefited in particular from the work and collaboration provided by the Commerce Department and NTIA.

Chairman Carr issued the following statement:

“President Trump is restoring America’s technology leadership. And this FCC authorization is a game-changer for enabling next-generation services. By authorizing 15,000 new and advanced satellites, the FCC has given SpaceX the green light to deliver unprecedented satellite broadband capabilities, strengthen competition, and help ensure that no community is left behind.”

Additional Background Information:

The FCC’s decision allows SpaceX to:

- **Upgrade the Gen2 Starlink satellites** with advanced form factors and cutting-edge technology.
- Operate across **Ku-, Ka-, V-, E-, and W-band frequencies**, supporting both **Fixed Satellite Service (FSS)** and **Mobile Satellite Service (MSS)**.
- **Waive obsolete requirements** that prevented overlapping beam coverage and enhanced capacity.
- Add new orbital shells at altitudes ranging from **340 km to 485 km**, optimizing coverage and performance.
- Provide **direct-to-cell connectivity** outside the United States and supplemental coverage within the U.S., paving the way for next-generation mobile services.

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