
ICON

1
00:00:01,130 --> 00:00:04,790
BROADCASTING LIVE FROM NASA'S KENNEDY SPACE
CENTER, YOU'RE WATCHING LAUNCH COVERAGE

2
00:00:04,790 --> 00:00:06,420
OF THE ICON SATELLITE.

3
00:00:06,420 --> 00:00:10,680
IT'S MISSION?…TO STUDY THE METEROLOGICAL
FRONTIER WHERE EARTH MEETS SPACE.

4
00:00:10,680 --> 00:00:15,140
ON YOUR SCREEN IS THE BACK OF THE PEGASUS
X-L ROCKET, WHICH CONTAINS ICON.

5
00:00:15,140 --> 00:00:19,150
APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES FROM NOW, THIS ROCKET
WILL LAUNCH NASA'S LATEST EARTH SCIENCE

6
00:00:19,150 --> 00:00:24,210
MISSION OFF THE EASTERN COAST OF FLORIDA,
INTO A VERY UNIQUE AND UNEXPLORED AREA OF

7
00:00:24,210 --> 00:00:25,210
SPACE.

8
00:00:25,210 --> 00:00:26,210
HELLO EVERYONE.

9
00:00:26,210 --> 00:00:29,479
I'M JENNIFER WOLFINGER AND THANKS FOR JOINING
US FOR THIS HIGHLY ANTICIPATED LAUNCH.

10
00:00:29,479 --> 00:00:34,180
THE IONOSPHERIC CONNECTION EXPLORER, OR ICON
FOR SHORT, WILL HELP SCIENTISTS UNDERSTAND

11
00:00:34,180 --> 00:00:38,470
THE PHYSICS OF OUR SPACE ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL

AS PROTECT OUR COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES AND

12
00:00:38,470 --> 00:00:46,990
ASTRONAUTS WHILE THEY'RE IN ORBIT.

13
00:00:46,990 --> 00:00:51,320
WHAT SEPARATES ICON FROM TRADITIONAL ROCKET
LAUNCHES IS THAT THE NORTHROP GRUMMAN PEGASUS

14
00:00:51,320 --> 00:00:56,490
X-L ROCKET WILL LAUNCH FROM THE BOTTOM OF
A STARGAZER L-10-11 AIRPLANE INSTEAD OF A

15
00:00:56,490 --> 00:00:58,060
STATIONARY LAUNCH PAD.

16
00:00:58,060 --> 00:01:03,280
THE STARGAZER TOOK OFF FROM CAPE CANAVERAL
AIR FORCE STATION ABOUT 45 MINUTES AGO – YOU

17
00:01:03,280 --> 00:01:07,420
CAN SEE IT THERE ON YOUR SCREEN, WITH THE
PEGASUS ATTACHED TO ITS BELLY.

18
00:01:07,420 --> 00:01:12,520
THIS AIRCRAFT, THE WORLD'S ONLY OPERATIONAL
AIR-LAUNCHING SYSTEM; IS A MOBILE LAUNCH PLATFORM

19
00:01:12,520 --> 00:01:15,969
THAT CAN BE DEPLOYED FROM ANYWHERE IN THE
WORLD.

20
00:01:15,969 --> 00:01:19,810
THE PLANE WILL RELEASE THE ROCKET 50 MILES
OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA AT APPROXIMATELY

21
00:01:19,810 --> 00:01:21,950
9:30 THIS EVENING.

22

00:01:21,950 --> 00:01:25,350
THIS IS THE FIRST OF TODAY'S TWO POSSIBLE
DROP ATTEMPTS.

23
00:01:25,350 --> 00:01:29,139
WHAT YOU'RE SEEING NOW IS A BIRD'S EYE
VIEW OF STARGAZER'S FLIGHT PATH.

24
00:01:29,139 --> 00:01:33,450
THE PATH FOLLOWS A LONG, OVAL LOOP, ALSO KNOW
AS THE RACETRACK.

25
00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:37,450
WHEN THE PLANE REACHES A CERTAIN POINT ON
THE PATH, THE STARGAZER WILL DROP THE PEGASUS

26
00:01:37,450 --> 00:01:38,450
ROCKET.

27
00:01:38,450 --> 00:01:42,600
IF THE FIRST ATTEMPT IS A NO-GO, STARGAZER
WILL LOOP BACK TO THE "SWEET SPOT" AND

28
00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:48,380
MAKE A SECOND DROP ATTEMPT BY 10:55 PM, WHICH
IS WHEN THE LAUNCH WINDOW CLOSES.

29
00:01:48,380 --> 00:01:53,569
NOW HERE ARE A FEW MORE QUICK FACTS ABOUT
THE MISSION.

30
00:01:53,569 --> 00:01:58,909
ONCE ICON IS LAUNCHED AND REACHES 40,000 FEET,
IT WILL BE RELEASED AND FREE FALL FOR 5 SECONDS

31
00:01:58,909 --> 00:02:01,679
BEFORE ITS FIRST-STAGE ROCKET MOTOR IGNITES.

32
00:02:01,679 --> 00:02:05,979
THE LAUNCH SEQUENCE FROM DROP TO PAYLOAD SEPARATION

WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN AND A HALF

33
00:02:05,979 --> 00:02:08,160
MINUTES.

34
00:02:08,160 --> 00:02:15,000
THE PEGASUS XL IS OVER 57 FEET LONG AND WEIGHS
NEARLY 53,000 POUNDS.

35
00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:21,560
ICON WEIGHS NEARLY 650 POUNDS—ABOUT AS MUCH
AS A VENDING MACHINE.

36
00:02:21,560 --> 00:02:26,030
WHEN IN ORBIT, THE SATELLITE WILL TRAVEL AT
MORE THAN 4 MILES PER SECOND.

37
00:02:26,030 --> 00:02:30,410
THAT'S ALMOST 30 TIMES FASTER THAN A COMMERCIAL
AIRLINER!

38
00:02:30,410 --> 00:02:35,410
ICON WILL STUDY CHANGES IN THE IONOSPHERE,
WHERE EARTH'S WEATHER MEETS SPACE WEATHER.

39
00:02:35,410 --> 00:02:42,070
THE SATELLITE'S SOLAR ARRAY IS OVER 8 FEET
LONG AND 2 FEET WIDE—A LITTLE BIGGER THAN

40
00:02:42,070 --> 00:02:45,040
A COMMON DOOR.