Delta II Déja vu: Boeing Orbits Four More Globalstar Satellites

A Boeing Delta II rocket placed four additional Globalstar satellites in orbit for Space Systems/Loral, marking the third time a Delta rocket has done so in 45 days.

Today's launch at 3:46 a.m. EDT brings to 32 the total number of satellites composing the emerging global telephony operating system. In total, Delta II rockets have placed 20 of the orbiting satellites into space with five launches.

"The past six weeks have been very successful for Boeing and for our customers Space Systems/Loral and Globalstar," said Darryl Van Dorn, Boeing director of NASA and commercial Delta programs. "We've been able to launch one fourth of the Globalstar satellites into orbit during this time, and we look forward to continued success in this effort."

The next Delta II Globalstar launch, scheduled for mid-August, will mark the final four of the 16 Globalstar satellites to be placed into orbit within a 70-day period by Boeing Delta rockets.

The Delta II is manufactured in Huntington Beach, Calif., with final assembly in Pueblo, Colo., and is powered by the RS-27A engine built by Boeing in Canoga Park, Calif. Alliant Techsystems, Magna, Utah, builds the graphite epoxy motors for boost assist. Aerojet, Sacramento, Calif., manufactures the second-stage engine; and AlliedSignal, Teterboro, N.J., builds the guidance and flight control system.

The Globalstar network is a planned constellation of 48 satellites orbiting at 764 nautical miles (1414 km) above the Earth that will supply global mobile telephony service.

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