

Angara Rocket Returned to Launch Pad for 2nd Take Off Attempt

By [Matthew Bodner](#)

July 07, 2014



Angara is Russia's first rocket of entirely post-Soviet design.

Russia's new Angara rocket was returned to the launch pad on Monday morning after a last minute complication scrubbed a launch attempt last month, and is undergoing prelaunch preparations for a Wednesday liftoff, sources at the Plesetsk Cosmodrome said.

A source at the cosmodrome told RIA Novosti that the launch vehicle is now on the launch pad and is scheduled to be raised into vertical position on Monday.

Angara is Russia's first rocket of entirely post-Soviet design and attempts to wean Russia's ailing space industry off parts made in former Soviet countries by using exclusively domestic components.

The rocket was commissioned in 1994 in response to the partitioning of the once labyrinthine Soviet space industry among the former Soviet states when the communist state disintegrated

in 1991. The Russian government was worried that countries with vital industrial assets, such as Ukraine, might one day withhold components needed for Russian space vehicles. This dependence has been highlighted by the collapse in Russian-Ukrainian relations in the wake of Moscow's annexation of Crimea in March. Two weeks ago, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko banned military-industrial cooperation with Russia, but it is not yet clear what effect, if any, this will have on space cooperation between the two nations, whose space and defense industries are still highly integrated.

The new Russian rocket was originally scheduled to launch on June 27, but a drop in pressure in Angara's oxidizer tank moments before launch prompted its flight computer to automatically cancel the launch. The rocket was then taken off the pad and returned to its assembly building to remedy the problem and ensure the vehicle was in full working order.

See also:

[Next Angara Launch Attempt Weeks Away](#)

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/07/07/angara-rocket-returned-to-launch-pad-for-2nd-take-off-attempt-a37070>