

# Russia Launches its First Arctic Monitoring Satellite

By [AFP](#)

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The 'Arktika-M' satellite, pictured ahead of launch. **Roscosmos Press Office**

A Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Sunday carrying Russia's first satellite for monitoring the Arctic's climate, the Roscosmos space agency said.

Video published by the Russian space agency showed the Soyuz blaster launching against grey skies at 06:55 GMT, carrying an Arktika-M satellite.

Space agency chief Dmitry Rogozin wrote on Twitter Sunday that the launch was routine.

"The 'Arktika' hydrometeorological and climate monitoring space system is designed to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic region," Roscosmos said in a statement.

**Embed:**

Пришлось поволноваться за этот пуск больше обычного. Ветер до 2 км был такой силы, что даже для нашего выносливого и некапризного "Союза-2" это было на самом пределе допуска по метеоусловиям. Но ракета и ее система управления блестяще справились. [pic.twitter.com/tNwh2zcpUm](https://pic.twitter.com/tNwh2zcpUm)

— РОГОЗИН (@Rogozin) [February 28, 2021](#)

The monitoring system will need at least two satellites to operate properly, the space agency said.

"As part of the system, they will provide round-the-clock all-weather monitoring of the Earth's surface and the seas of the Arctic Ocean," it added.

The launch of the second Arktika-M satellite is planned for 2023, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Economic development of the Arctic is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's key goals.

The Arctic holds huge oil and gas reserves that are being eyed by Russia and other countries including the United States, Canada and Norway.

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U.K. scientists last month reported ice was disappearing across the world at a rate that matched "worst-case climate warming scenarios".

The team from the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds and University College London found that some of the largest losses in the last three decades were from Arctic Sea ice.

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<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/02/28/russia-launches-its-first-arctic-monitoring-satellite-a73097>