

Starlink in Ukraine Back to Normal After Week of Throttling

By [Reuters](#)

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A Starlink satellite internet system is set up near the frontline town of Pokrovsk. **REUTERS / Inna Varenysia**

Ukraine said on Saturday that the Starlink satellite system and its military version Starshield were now fully functional after over a week of restrictions that disrupted military operations and intensified tensions with the U.S.

Problems with Elon Musk's SpaceX-owned systems came after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a deal to buy Russian diesel while pressing Kyiv to stop striking Russian oil refineries.

Ukrainian officials said the restrictions, which capped operations at speeds of 160 kilometers per hour (kph), hampered the military's ability to intercept Russian attack drones and forced the cancellation of some operations.

"The main thing for today is that Starlink and Starshield have resumed operations at their pre-restriction speeds. The speeds are now at the level we need," President Volodymyr Zelensky said on the Telegram app.

According to Zelensky, the speeds started returning to normal overnight. Ukraine's Defense Ministry said on Saturday the connection remained stable at over 400 kph.

Ukraine does not rely on the systems for long-range drone operations on Russian territory, including attacks on refineries.

But Starlink remains vital for frontline communications, and the deployment of Starshield-enabled medium-range attack drones has helped Ukraine gain the upper hand in several areas of the battlefield this year.

Limitations order

The restrictions sparked outrage in Ukraine, particularly as they coincided with disruptions to allied warnings about incoming Russian missile attacks. Kyiv later said it continued to receive U.S. intelligence.

Neither Musk nor the U.S. government has acknowledged responsibility for restricting Starlink or Starshield in Ukraine. Both have said publicly that any such decision could only have been taken by the other.

Reuters has reported that the order to throttle Starshield came from inside the White House. Previously, U.S. administrations had several times asked SpaceX to turn Starlink on or off in various countries, sources said.

On Friday, contradicting his previous statement that the services had been fully restored, Trump said that if problems persisted, he would "get it straightened out."

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