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## Korea to launch 3rd Nuri space rocket on May 24

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Korea will conduct the third launch of its locally developed Nuri space rocket on May 24 as part of the country's efforts to secure its own technology for putting satellites in orbit, the science ministry said Tuesday.

The Ministry of Science and ICT said it held a meeting of the Nuri's launch management committee and decided to launch the next Nuri rocket from the Naro Space Center in Goheung, South Jeolla Province.

"The launch management committee carefully reviewed preparations for the third Nuri launch, a satellite-mounting schedule, final test plan and various conditions such as weather, space environment and possibility of collision with space objects and set a scheduled launch date of May 24," the ministry said.

The launch committee added the preliminary launch period was set to between May 25 and 31 in consideration of the possibility of changing the launch schedule in the event of some issues, such as unfavorable weather conditions. The scheduled launch time is also confirmed to be 6:24 p.m.

The ministry said first- and

second-stage assembly has been completed for the three-stage Nuri space rocket, and various performance tests are planned. Also, the final environmental tests of eight satellites to be mounted to the third stage are in progress.

The Nuri will carry eight satellites, including one main satellite called the No. 2 next-generation small-size satellite that will conduct ground observation.

"The third Nuri launch is the first attempt to launch a practical satellite. It is also meaningful because this will be the first time for a private company to take part in the launch process," said Oh Tae-seog, first vice minister of the science ministry.

Last June, Korea succeeded in its second attempt to launch a Nuri space rocket. After, the private company Hanwha Aerospace was selected to receive a technology transfer for the launch vehicle as the government aimed at nurturing the private sector to achieve its space exploration project.

"The Korea Aerospace Research Institute, a private company and related industries are all making their best efforts for the launch and the Ministry of Science and ICT will also do its best to ensure a successful launch," the vice minister said.