

The Korea Times

*** CITY EDITION

Established 1950, No. 22501

www.koreatimes.co.kr

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

Dongwha

www.dongwha.com



14 Adoption

Adoptee laments loss of family, language and country

Nationwide 24-hour reservation

1588-2001

Excludes 11th Floor
KOREAN AIR

S. Korea succeeds in 3rd test flight of solid-fuel space rocket

South Korea successfully conducted a third test flight of a solid-fuel space rocket Monday, the defense ministry said, as part of efforts to build its independent space-based surveillance system against North Korea.

The space launch vehicle was launched from a barge floating in waters about 4 kilometers south of Jeju Island at 2 p.m. and placed a small Earth observation satellite into orbit at an altitude of about 650 km, the ministry said.

The 100-kilogram synthetic aperture radar satellite, made by Hanwha Systems, succeeded in sending signals to a ground station at 3:45 p.m., which means it is operating normally, the company said.

The rocket is designed to put a small satellite into a low Earth orbit for surveillance operations. Compared with liquid-fuel space vehicles, solid-fuel ones are known to be usually simpler and more cost-effective

to launch.

The space vehicle under development by the state-run Agency for Defense Development uses solid fuel for the first three rockets, while it employs liquid fuel for the fourth stage as it is considered easier to precisely adjust the separation of the payload.

The first two flights in March and December 2022, respectively, tested the performance of three engines except the first-stage booster.

The ministry said it plans to conduct a full-fledged launch when the development is complete to bolster the military's satellite-based surveillance system, without specifying the schedule.

"Once the development of the solid-fuel space launch vehicle is complete, the South Korean military will be capable of launching small satellites designed for surveillance and reconnaissance in accordance



A solid-fuel space launch vehicle blasts off from a barge floating in waters off Jeju Island, Monday.

Yonhap

with its security demands and in contingencies," the ministry said in a release.

For the future, it vowed to develop a space delivery system capable of launching heavier satellites weighing

500-700 kg in low Earth orbit.

The space vehicle's test flight comes just days after South Korea successfully launched its first spy satellite into orbit on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force

Base in California on Friday.

The launch is part of Seoul's plan to send five reconnaissance satellites into space by 2025 to better monitor North Korea amid its rising nuclear and missile threats. (Yonhap)