

11 January 2026



(Picture credits: *Exolaunch*)

### *Pandora rideshare launch*

**Space agency/country:** SpaceX  
**Mission:** *Pandora rideshare mission*

On 11 January 2026, SpaceX successfully launched their *Falcon 9* rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E, California, USA. As part of a rideshare mission, the *Pandora* satellite features a 45 cm telescope for exoplanet observations, developed as part of NASA's Astrophysics Pioneers Program. The mission will help improve our understanding of exoplanet atmospheres by disentangling exoplanet signals from their host stars, as well as studying host star variability with long-duration observations of 20 unique planets through visible-light photometry and near-infrared spectroscopy.

#### **For more information:**

[https://www.exolaunch.com/news\\_143.html](https://www.exolaunch.com/news_143.html)  
<https://nextspaceflight.com/launches/details/8026/>