



Starship Reaches Orbit

Space suddenly feels a little less like science fiction. On 28 September 2026, SpaceX's Starship reached orbit for the first time, completing its 14th test flight and deploying 26 new Starlink V3 satellites.

According to Reuters, SpaceX has spent more than \$15 billion on the programme. That is an extraordinary amount of money for a rocket that has spent much of its life exploding, failing, and being redesigned.

So why spend so much?

Because Starship is not simply designed to be a bigger rocket. The ambition is to fundamentally change the economics of getting things into space. Until now, most Starlink satellites have been launched using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. The new Starlink V3 satellites are larger and more capable, and too big for Falcon 9.

The V3 satellite is designed to provide around 1 terabit per second of download capacity, roughly 10 times that of a V2 Mini satellite. The important point is that Starship isn't just carrying more satellites. It is enabling a different class of satellite.

For individuals, the most obvious impact is connectivity. Better satellite networks could make reliable internet increasingly available in places where traditional fibre or mobile infrastructure is difficult or expensive to build. For someone living in a remote community, travelling far from major cities or working in an area with limited infrastructure, the gap between being "connected" and "disconnected" could become much smaller.

The longer-term question is what comes next.

Starship is being designed as a fully reusable launch system. Reusable rockets such as Falcon 9 have already lowered the cost of launching. If SpaceX can eventually launch, recover and relaunch Starship at high frequency, costs could fall further. Space could become a more accessible platform for communications, computing, research and, eventually, entirely new industries.

Think of it like the early days of the internet. The important question wasn't simply what the first websites could do. It was what happened once the infrastructure became cheap and widespread enough for millions of people to build on top of it. Space could be heading in a similar direction.

Technological breakthroughs rarely stay confined to the industry that creates them. The first practical internet connections were not built with today's social media, streaming services or AI applications in mind. Likewise, we probably don't yet know all the businesses and technologies that will emerge once launching things into space becomes dramatically easier. Satellites already support navigation, Earth observation, weather monitoring and communications. Cheaper launches could expand these services.

If Starship succeeds, the next chapter of technology may not just be about what we can build on Earth, but what we can build around it.



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