

Russia carrier rocket blasts off to orbit civilian satellite

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The rocket was launched at 12:14 a. m. Moscow time. This is the eighth launch of a Russian carrier rocket this year and the first one from the Vostochny spaceport, a TASS correspondent reports.

The satellite will deal with mapping of the Earth's surface, environmental monitoring, and the prospecting of natural resources.

The space vehicle will be able to get detailed images with a 1-meter resolution and survey the Earth's surface on an area of 120 km in any weather and at any time of the day or night.

Specifically, the Kondor-FKA will operate for the purposes of forecasting, monitoring, and data support for measures to eliminate the consequences of floods, forest fires, snow avalanches, and other natural disasters.

As Roscosmos reported, the satellite will contribute to effectively gauging the scope of oil spills. The satellite will also monitor the dynamics of the contamination of water areas with petroleum products and wastewater.

The Kondor is a series of small Earth's remote-sensing satellites developed by the Research and Production Association of Machine-Building for the Aerospace Defense Forces and foreign customers.