

Press release

Successful rocket launch with scientific experiments

Space mission in northern Sweden goes according to plan / Gebrüder Weiss is the official logistics partner of the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) and transported the experiments to the Arctic Circle

Lauterach / Kiruna, November 23, 2022. On Wednesday, November 23, the rocket lifted off from the Esrange base at 9:25 a.m., shooting into space at a speed of more than 6,500 kilometers per hour. The parabolic trajectory meant that the experiments floated in weightlessness at an altitude of 260 kilometers for six minutes before returning to Earth attached to a parachute. The test subjects then landed in an uninhabited area north of Esrange. A team from the [Swedish Space Corporation](#) flew them back to base by helicopter, where they are now being evaluated by scientists.

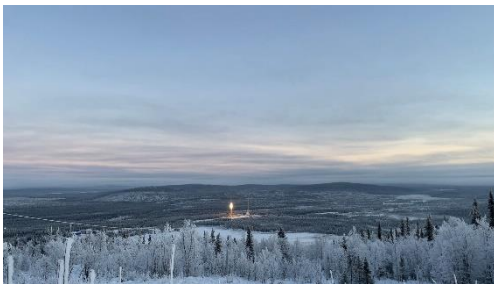
Stefan Krämer, project manager of the mission, is relieved about the successful outcome: “We had been working on this rocket launch for over two years. The tension was palpable. Ultimately, all partners contributed to the success of the mission. Thanks also to Gebrüder Weiss for the logistical support.” The company is a partner of SSC and transported the research equipment. Frank Haas, Communications Manager at [Gebrüder Weiss](#), was on site for the launch: “Time and again, we support selected projects that point the way to the future of mobility. This mission carries outstanding scientific significance with the various tests taking place aboard the rocket.”

Twelve research tests from the fields of biomedicine, physics, astronomy and biology flew into space aboard the rocket. Among them was the NeuroBeta experiment from the Faculty of Medicine, Uppsala University, the focus of which is on curing diabetes A. Pancreatic stem cells were flown into space to study the cells and their activation under weightless conditions. “The retrieval operation for this experiment was particularly tricky because the samples had to be back at the lab in Esrange within two hours,” says Alf Vaernéus, the engineer in charge of the project. “We’re glad that it all worked out.”

Also on board were 13 watches from the Swiss watch manufacturer [FORTIS](#) to see how they behaved in space. Jupp Philipp, owner of FORTIS: “We want to build watches that also demonstrably work in space. We have yet to evaluate the detailed results of this stress test, but what we can already say is that all the watches found their way back to Earth intact and are working accurately.” The company aims to develop the first watch that can be worn by astronauts on Mars. Just like Gebrüder Weiss, Fortis is therefore also a cooperation partner of the Austrian Space Forum. Both companies supported the [Mars analog mission](#) in Israel in 2021.

About the mission

The Swedish Space Corporation conducted its 15th space mission in northern Sweden from November 14-23. The SubOrbital Express mission involved sending twelve scientific experiments with a rocket into space to study their behavior in a weightless environment. The tests were submitted by research teams from Costa Rica, Brazil, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein and Sweden, with the purpose of this mission being to gain insights relevant for research work and the work of astronauts in space. The preparations for this mission took two years.



Caption: On November 23, at 9:25 a.m., the rocket lifted off from the base in Esrange, northern Sweden, with the scientific experiments on board. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss / Florian Lorenz)



Caption: (from left) Jupp Philipp, owner of FORTIS, Stefan Krämer, project manager of the mission, and Frank Haas, Communications Manager at Gebrüder Weiss, in front of the rocket. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss / Florian Lorenz)



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Über Gebrüder Weiss

Die Gebrüder Weiss Holding AG mit Sitz in Lauterach (Österreich) ist ein weltweit agierender Full-Service-Logistiker mit rund 8.000 Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeitern und 180 firmeneigenen Standorten. Zuletzt erwirtschaftete das Unternehmen einen Jahresumsatz von 2,5 Milliarden Euro (2021). Zum Portfolio gehören Transport- und Logistikkösungen, digitale Services und Supply Chain Management. Die Kombination aus digitaler und physischer Kompetenz ermöglicht es dem Konzern, schnell und flexibel auf Kundenbedürfnisse zu reagieren. Mit einer Vielzahl an ökologischen, ökonomischen und sozialen Maßnahmen gilt das Familienunternehmen, dessen Geschichte im Transportwesen mehr als 500 Jahre zurückreicht, heute auch als Vorreiter in puncto nachhaltiges Wirtschaften. www.gw-world.com

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