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## • • Rocket Lab's Modest Launch Is Giant Leap for Small Rocket Business

The company's Electron rocket carried a batch of small commercial satellites from a launchpad in New Zealand, a harbinger of a major transformation to the space business.

Image



Rocket Lab's Electron launched from a site in New Zealand on Sunday, local time. The rocket carried seven payloads, all small satellites. Credit: Rocket Lab

- • A small rocket from a little-known company lifted off Sunday from the east coast of New Zealand, carrying a clutch of tiny satellites. That modest event — the first commercial launch by a U.S.-New Zealand company known as Rocket Lab — could mark the beginning of a new era in the space business, where countless small rockets pop off from spaceports around the world. This miniaturization of rockets and spacecraft places outer space within reach of a broader swath of the economy.