

Space Force Ends SATCOM Program to Speed Up Deployment of Anti-Jam Systems

July 30, 2025

— Categories: Defence & Security



The U.S. Space Force has officially ended its Protected Tactical Satellite Communications-Resilient (PTS-R) program, shifting its focus toward rapidly fielding prototype systems already under development. The move reflects a broader change in strategy aimed at delivering secure, anti-jamming communications to warfighters faster and with fewer delays.

Instead of waiting years for a fully developed, standalone platform, the Space Force will now prioritize two prototype payloads, built by Boeing and Northrop Grumman, that are scheduled for launch in 2026. Originally intended for testing, these systems will now be used to provide early operational capability.

Officials behind the decision say the new approach is designed to reduce technical risk and speed up the delivery of critical communications technology. The shift also aligns with the Pentagon's push for more agile acquisition methods that can rapidly respond to battlefield needs.

While the PTS-R program is being shelved, other related efforts will continue. These include the PTS-Global initiative, ground control systems, and enterprise-level management capabilities. Together, they form part of a broader "family of systems" concept that emphasizes flexibility, modular upgrades, and faster integration of new capabilities.

The cancellation of PTS-R reflects growing recognition that conventional defense acquisition processes may not keep pace with rapidly evolving threats. Space Force leaders argue that a modular, scalable approach, using a mix of existing systems and adaptable technology, will better serve long-term military needs.

Critics, however, caution that relying too heavily on prototypes could risk gaps in capability or coverage. Nonetheless, program officials maintain that integrating these new systems with legacy satellites and planned enhancements will fulfill operational requirements.

As the Space Force prepares for its upcoming launches and continues to refine its strategy, the outcome of this shift will likely influence how future

satellite communication programs are developed, not just for space operations, but across the Department of Defense.