
SOUTH KOREA'S SPACE PROGRAM IS A BIG DEAL

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The successful launch of the domestically produced Nuri rocket has implications for the nation, the region, and the world.

The first stage of the Nuri rocket ignited at 4:00 p.m. local time on June 21. As the six satellites in the rocket reached their orbit at an altitude of 430 miles, South Korea became the seventh nation in the world to have successfully launched a greater-than-1-ton payload on a fully indigenous space launch vehicle.

While liftoff to orbit may have taken just 70 minutes, South Korea's journey to this historic moment involved more than 30 years of painstaking research and development. It is not only an incredible technical achievement by the Korean aerospace industry, but also comes with significant policy implications for South Korea, the region, and the world.

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