Rocket Lab Successfully Launches 85th Mission and First Dedicated Launch for European Space Agency

March 28, 2026

MAHIA, New Zealand, March 28, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Rocket Lab Corporation (Nasdaq: RKLB) (“Rocket Lab” or the “Company”), a global leader in launch services and space systems, today successfully completed its first dedicated launch for the European Space Agency (ESA), demonstrating Electron’s key and growing role in supporting space agency missions with repeatable and reliable commercial launch services.

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The launch, named “Daughter Of The Stars”, lifted off from Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1 in New Zealand on March 28th at 10:14 pm NZT to successfully deliver ESA’s “Celeste” mission to orbit: the first two spacecraft of a satellite navigation demonstration mission in low Earth orbit at 510 km. ESA’s Celeste mission will demonstrate how a low Earth orbit fleet of satellites can work in combination with the Galileo constellation in medium Earth orbit that provide Europe’s own global navigation system. Built by two consortia led by GMV (Spain) and Thales Alenia Space (France), the pair of ESA spacecraft will test next-generation technologies for a broad variety of future uses in autonomous vehicles, maritime navigation, wireless networks, emergency services, and critical infrastructure projects across Europe.

This launch continues Rocket Lab’s record of 100% mission success for national space programs including NASA, JAXA, KASA, and now ESA, underscoring Electron’s importance to space access both domestically and internationally with its consistently precise, reliable, and responsive launches.

Rocket Lab founder and CEO, Sir Peter Beck, says: “Orbital accuracy is critical for the beginning of a new constellation. It’s why satellite operators across all mission types choose Electron for a dedicated launch, because they know they can rely on our rocket’s precision and accuracy to establish a solid foundation in orbit. This mission for ESA is just the latest example of Electron's constancy as the launch industry leader globally for small sat missions and a proud moment for the team to deliver mission success for such a prestigious organization as ESA.”

“We are pleased to see our first two Celeste satellites starting their important mission, as they open a new era for satellite navigation in Europe. Over the past two decades, Galileo and EGNOS have become a total success, fuelling our society, generating economic growth and ensuring European independence and security. Now, ESA’s Celeste will demonstrate how a complementary layer in low Earth orbit can enhance Europe’s current navigation systems, making them more resilient, more robust, and capable of delivering entirely new services,” adds Francisco-Javier Benedicto Ruiz, ESA’s Director of Navigation.

“Daughter Of The Stars” was Rocket Lab’s 6 th launch of the year and 85th launch overall. Upcoming launches in 2026 include missions for commercial Earth observation, international space agencies, national security, and hypersonic technology development.

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About Rocket Lab

Founded in 2006, Rocket Lab is an end-to-end space company with an established track record of mission success. We deliver reliable launch services, satellite manufacture, spacecraft components, and on-orbit management solutions that make it faster, easier, and more affordable to access space. Headquartered in Long Beach, California, Rocket Lab designs and manufactures the Electron small orbital launch vehicle, the HASTE suborbital launch vehicle for hypersonic tests, a family of flight proven spacecraft, and the larger Neutron launch vehicle for constellation deployment. Since its first orbital launch in January 2018, Rocket Lab’s Electron launch vehicle has become the second most frequently launched U.S. rocket annually. Rocket Lab has deployed more than 250 payloads from its launch sites in the United States and New Zealand for private and public sector organizations, enabling operations in national security, scientific research, space debris mitigation, Earth observation, climate monitoring, and

communications. Rocket Lab's family of spacecraft have been selected to support NASA missions to the Moon and Mars, as well as the first private commercial mission to Venus. Rocket Lab has three launch pads at two launch sites, including two launch pads at a private orbital launch site located in New Zealand and a third launch pad in Virginia. To learn more, visit www.rocketlabusa.com.

Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward looking statements contained in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). All statements contained in this press release other than statements of historical fact, including, without limitation, statements regarding our launch and space systems operations, launch schedule and window, safe and repeatable access to space, Neutron development, operational expansion and business strategy are forward-looking statements. The words "believe," "may," "will," "estimate," "potential," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "expect," "strategy," "future," "could," "would," "project," "plan," "target," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, though not all forward-looking statements use these words or expressions. These statements are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other important factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, including but not limited to the factors, risks and uncertainties included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, as such factors may be updated from time to time in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), accessible on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov and the Investor Relations section of our website at www.rocketlabusa.com, which could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements made in this press release. Any such forward-looking statements represent management's estimates as of the date of this press release. While we may elect to update such forward-looking statements at some point in the future, we disclaim any obligation to do so, even if subsequent events cause our views to change.

A photo accompanying this announcement is available at https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/00c98efc-ee04-4e07-a014-c50f8c281dfc