



Starlink

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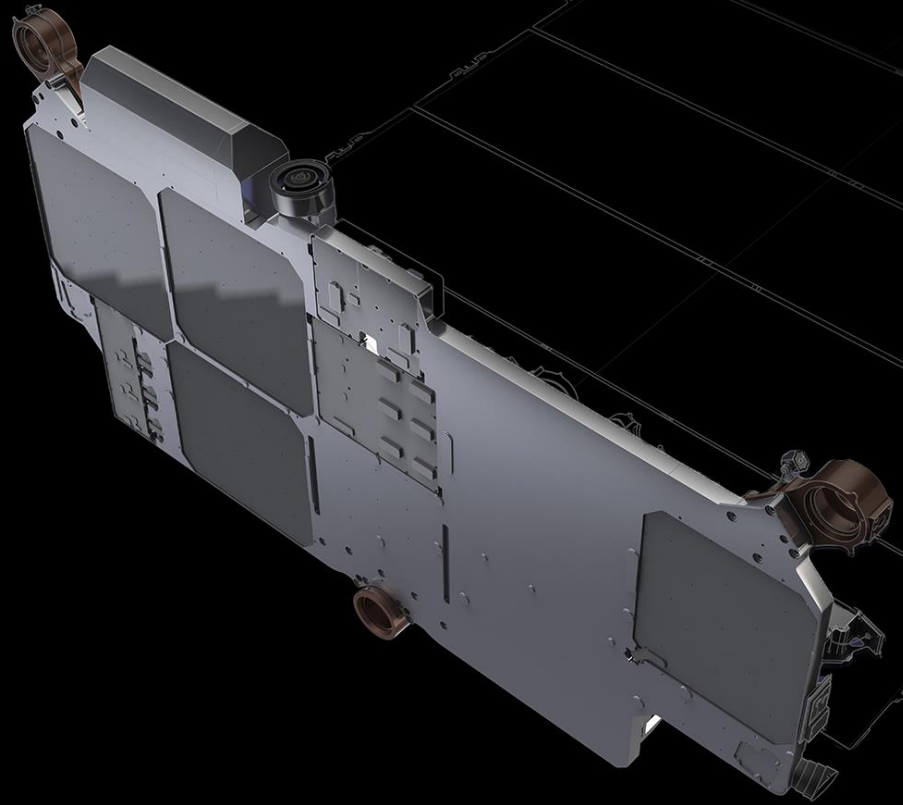
VISIBILITY:

- Between 1 and 4 months, the satellites use their onboard thrusters to raise from an altitude of 290 km to 550 km.
- During this phase of flight the satellites are closely clustered and their solar arrays are in a special low-drag configuration, making them appear more visible from the ground.
- Once the satellites reach their operational altitude of 550km and begin on-station service, their orientation changes and the satellites become significantly less visible from the ground.



MITIGATIONS:

- Collaborating with astronomy community to observe and measure an experimental darkening treatment on one satellite to further reduce the albedo of the body of the satellites.
- Throughout flight operations, SpaceX shares high-fidelity tracking data with other satellite operators through the U.S. Air Force's 18th Space Control Squadron.
- SpaceX is providing leading astronomy groups with predictive two-line elements (TLEs) in advance of launch so astronomers can better coordinate their observations with the satellites.



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