

INCLEMENT WEATHER PUTS OFF SKYROOT'S MAIDEN ROCKET LAUNCH TO NOV 18

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Skyroot's Vikram-1 stage-3 test firing. File | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Inclement weather conditions have put off the sub-orbital launch of India's first privately-developed rocket – Vikram-S – by three days to November 18, the Hyderabad-based space start up Skyroot Aerospace said on Sunday.

The launch was earlier scheduled [for November 15](#).

The maiden mission [of Skyroot Aerospace](#), named 'Prarambh' (the beginning), will carry payloads of two Indian and one foreign customers, and is set for launch from the Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota.

The mission is considered an important milestone for Skyroot as it will help validate 80% of the technologies that would be used in the Vikram-1 orbital vehicle that is planned for launch next year.

"One of the key areas that we would be monitoring closely would be the performance of our solid fuelled rocket engine 'Kalaam-1'," a Skyroot spokesperson said.

Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace start up, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the U.S., Singapore and Indonesia, on the sub-orbital flight on board Vikram-S.

With this mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation.

Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai.

Set up in 2018, Skyroot has successfully built and tested India's first privately-developed cryogenic, hypergolic-liquid, and solid fuel-based rocket engines using advanced composite and 3D-printing technologies.

Skyroot Aerospace successfully raised \$51 million through a Series-B financing round, in September this year. It had raised \$11 million in Series-A capital raise in July last year.

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