Incident in space for the SpainSat NG II satellite, the Spanish asset that strengthens NATO and EU communications

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The **Spanish satellite SpainSat NG II** suffered an **accidental external impact while it was in the process of transferring to its final orbital position**, Hisdesat confirmed in an official statement. The spacecraft, part of the next-generation **SpainSat NG** program and successfully launched on **October 23, 2025** from the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station** aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, was hit by a **space particle during its journey to geostationary orbit**, about **50,000 kilometers from Earth**.

SpainSat NG II represents one of the most advanced and sensitive space assets in the **Euro-Atlantic** security architecture.

Contingency plan activated

According to today's report, the incident **did not affect the satellite communication services in use**, including those critical for the **Spanish Ministry of Defense** and the Armed Forces operations. Hisdesat has indeed **immediately activated a contingency plan to ensure operational continuity** and to guarantee that users do not experience interruptions in scheduled services.

The technical team is now engaged in **analyzing the available data** to determine the extent of the damage and assess any corrective actions. In case of significant impediments to the full operability of the satellite, the possibility of requesting **the construction of a third satellite** to replace NG II as soon as possible is not excluded.

A key satellite for European communication sovereignty

SpainSat NG II is part of the **SpainSat NG** program, developed to ensure **highly protected governmental and military satellite communications**, resistant to electronic jamming, interception, and interference attempts. In a geopolitical context characterized by **competition among major powers and increasing militarization of space**, this type of capability has become essential.

For Spain, the satellite strengthens national strategic autonomy; in the Euro-Atlantic context, it contributes to enhancing the overall resilience of military communications , allowing for greater European autonomy and reducing dependence on non-European systems in multinational operations.

A capability multiplier in the NATO context

Within the framework of the Atlantic Alliance, **SpainSat NG II provides Spain with a secure communications capability** that can be decisive in participating in **multinational operations**, deterrence missions, **command and control (C2)** activities, and coordination between land, naval, and air forces. The availability of **encrypted, resilient, and electronic warfare-resistant channels** is now an essential requirement, especially in high-intensity scenarios or contested areas.

In this sense, the SpainSat NG program **is consistent with the evolution of NATO's posture in space**, an operational domain recognized alongside land, sea, air, and cyberspace: a

dimension where resilience, continuity of communications, and protection of orbiting infrastructures become determining factors.

A strategic asset also for European defense

On the EU side, SpainSat NG II strengthens a national capability that **enables Spain's participation** in missions and operations within the framework of the **Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)**. Reliable and protected communications are indispensable for crisis management, civilian and military missions, and, more generally, for cooperation among member states, including projects and initiatives related to **PESCO**.

The satellite complements other European space programs, contributing to an ecosystem that aims to ensure **operational continuity, information security, and freedom of action** even in contexts of high technological or military pressure.

Space, defense, and resilience: a current lesson

The impact of the SpainSat NG II satellite recorded during orbital transfer demonstrates how the space domain has become **critical and vulnerable**, even in the absence of hostile actions. Ensuring service continuity therefore means investing in **resilient architectures**, backup capabilities, and credible contingency plans.

In this scenario, SpainSat NG II should be understood for what it represents: **a European strategic capability with national leadership**, which strengthens collective security and **the operational resilience of the Euro-Atlantic framework**, supporting Spain's activities within **NATO** and the **European Union**. Because today superiority does not depend only on means and men: it also depends on the **certainty of communication**.

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