



Astra Space Inc. could not complete its mission to release four small satellites into orbit Thursday, Feb. 10.

Astra Rocket Unable to Complete NASA Mission

Ekene Ikeme

The Astra Rocket 3.3 was unable to launch off the ground but unable to release its payloads into orbit Thursday, Feb. 10.

The launch began right at 12 p.m. PT. Alameda-based Astra Space Inc.'s 43-foot rocket launched into the sky from Space Launch Complex 46 in Cape Canaveral, Fla., but about three minutes into its mission the second stage of the rocket began spinning out of control. A video feed from inside the rocket clearly showed the rocket rotating round and round just after the rocket's first and second stages separated. Soon after the video feed cut off.

"Unfortunately, we heard that an issue has been experienced during flight that prevented the delivery of our customer payloads to orbit today," said Carolina Grossman, Astra's director of product management, during a webcast of the launch. "More information will be provided as we complete the data review."

Astra will work with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to

investigate what caused the failed flight, according to reports.

The launch mission, Educational Launch of Nanosatellites (ELaNa 41), was Astra's first mission for NASA. The

"The Astra team demonstrated dedication to supporting NASA's mission. The lessons learned will benefit them and the agency going forward."

— Hamilton Fernandez

Mission Manager with NASA's Launch Services Program

ELaNa 41 is part of NASA's Venture Class Launch Services Demonstration 2 (VCLS Demo 2) contract under NASA's Launch Services Program (LSP). The agency awarded Astra a \$3.9 million contract to join the program, according to reports.

"Missions like these are critical for developing new launch vehicles in this growing commercial sector," said Hamilton Fernandez, mission manager with NASA's Launch Services Program, on NASA's website blog. "The Astra team demonstrated dedication to supporting NASA's mission. The lessons learned will benefit them and the agency going forward."

The plan was to release its payload of four small satellites, CubeSats. Now, both the rocket and satellites are gone. Grossman apologized to NASA and the entities that built the CubeSats during the webcast. The CubeSats were

built by engineering teams at University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, University of New Mexico-Las Cruces, University of California-Berkeley and at the NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Astra's stock price nosedived after the failed mission. Astra's stock sat at \$5.83 a share at 12 p.m. PT. on Thursday and dropped to \$3.44 a share by 12:40 p.m. PT. The Nasdaq halted the stock down five percent at 12:05 p.m. PT. By the end of the trading day the stock was at \$3.91 a share, down 26% on the day.

This was Astra's third attempt to fly the rocket and release the payload. Unlike, the first two attempts, ("Astra Aborts Launch Mission" Feb. 7), this time the Rocket 3.3 was able to get off the ground. The first attempt on Saturday, Feb. 5, was postponed due to a radar issue. The second attempt on Monday, Feb. 7, was "scrubbed" right as the rocket was to lift off due to a "minor telemetry issue," according to Grossman.

The mission was the company's first-ever launch of operational satellites. The Rocket 3.3 used the LV 0008 launch vehicle. Astra was founded in 2016. Astra specializes in building small rockets for low-Earth travel that are cost-efficient and can fit in a shipping container. It plans to launch 300 rockets per year by 2025. Astra Space Inc. is headquartered at 1900 Skyhawk St. at Alameda Point.



City plans to use a state grant to build a 47-unit interim housing development.

City Submits Grant to Build Development for Unhoused Residents

Ekene Ikeme

The City of Alameda reported on Feb. 10 it has applied for a Project Homekey Round 2 grant to receive funding to build an interim housing development for the city's unhoused community. The city requested \$12.4 million, according to reports.

The housing development will be two stories and contain 47 individual units. The plan calls for 38 units to be allocated for chronically unhoused residents, four units for general or recently unhoused residents and five units for transitional age youth who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused. The proposed development would also include eight units adapted for individuals with mobility, hearing or vision disabilities. The units would include a private bathroom, desk and individually controlled climate control as well as common areas and amenities.

The development would include shelters on the first and second floor, an administration building, a pet area (pets will be welcomed), a community garden and about 26 parking spots.

The proposed development would be located at the "bottle parcel" at 2350 Fifth St., next to the College of Alameda. Currently, the vacant land is owned by the Alameda's Successor Agency to the Community Improvement Commission (SACIC).

Homekey grants are separated by capital award and operating award. The capital award must be spent eight months after collection, while the operational award must be spent after three years. Per Homekey rules, the city must guarantee that operational costs for the project are available for five years (The city plans for the development to remain in place for 15 years, 20 years if County Home funds are used). City Manager Eric Levitt told the council in November 2021 that grant funding through Homekey will not pay all operational costs through the first five years. In response, the council approved a plan to include \$4.64 million from the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 and \$1.2 million from the General Fund, for a total of \$5.84 million, to help with operational costs through fiscal year 2027-28.

Alameda Community Development Director Lisa Maxwell told the council that city staff does not have the funding identified after year five, but they will begin pursuing other grant opportunities and funding sources once the application is submitted.

In August 2021, when there was inclination the state would offer a second round of Project Homekey, the city sent out a request for pro-

posal to local entities seeking a developer, property manager and service provider for the development. After receiving several responses, the city opted to hire DignityMoves and Five Keys as partners in the project.

DignityMoves will be the project developer. The development would be called Dignity Village. DignityMoves works to offer supportive housing as a stop-over between living on the street and permanent housing. They have built similar interim housing projects in San Francisco and Santa Barbara. The San Francisco development contains 70 private rooms.

Five Keys would lead in operational services. Five Keys is a non-profit organization that "provides traditionally underserved communities the opportunity to improve their lives through a focus on the Five Keys: Education, Employment, Recovery, Family, Community." Five Keys offers free adult education to California residents wishing to obtain their GED, HiSET, or High School Diploma. College of Alameda might also offer services to residents. Prospective residents would receive case management and support in obtaining permanent housing; addiction, mental health and medical care; public benefits; education and skill building; and referrals to employment services.

SACIC, DignityMoves and Five Keys are co-authors in the Project Homekey Round 2 application with the City of Alameda.

Project Homekey's goal is to make funding available to local public entities to develop a range of housing types, including manufactured housing, and convert into permanent or interim housing for unhoused residents. The program was created as a continuation to Project Roomkey, which was established in March 2020 as part of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Alameda provided four trailers for the project.

As the project wound down, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced on July 16, 2020, the state had allocated \$600 million for Project Homekey. Newsom later added \$200 million more to the fund. On Sept. 16, 2021, Newsom announced round 2 of the grant, which would allocate \$1.45 billion to public entities.

The program is administered by the State of California's Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD). Application deadline for the grant is May 2, or when money has run out. A third round is expected.

To read the city's Project Homekey and Dignity Village report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yuwnvfdj>.

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Date	Rise	Set
Today	6:57	17:49
Feb. 18	6:56	17:50
Feb. 19	6:54	17:51
Feb. 20	6:53	17:53
Feb. 21	6:52	17:54
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APD Arrests Armed Robbery Suspect; Still Seek Another

Sun Staff Reports

On Feb. 14, the United States Marshals Service (USMS) assisted members of Alameda Police Department's (APD) Violent Crimes Unit with the arrest and service of a search warrant for the suspect who allegedly committed armed robbery on Jan. 11.

"This operation was the result of tireless weeks of investigation resulting in a verified address for our suspect outside of Alameda," according to an APD press release.

Along with members of an outside agency's patrol division, the USMS detained our suspect and secured the residence he was associated with. APD's VCU detectives recovered evidence associated with this investigation and took custody of the suspect without incident. While **SUSPECT: Page 10**



Alameda Police Department

After arresting the male suspect, Alameda Police Department are searching for the female suspect that took part in an armed robbery on Jan. 11.

Sun Staff Reports

More than a dozen St. Joseph Notre Dame students submitted artwork for the school's 11th annual art exhibition at Blue Dot Café, at 1910 Encinal Ave.

Selected artwork from members of the St. Joseph Notre Dame National Art Honors Society and the Advanced Art: Pre AP, Advanced Art: Senior Portfolio and Advanced Placement Studio Art classes are posted on the walls of Blue Dot Café for their patrons to view.

About 19 students' art pieces were selected to be a part of the exhibition. Each student created a series of artworks based on a theme of their choice.

The exhibit will take place over the next two months. The first month of the show, Feb. 12 to March 14, showcases work selected by Honors/AP art students and artwork they submitted. There are 28 pieces in the show, 10 were selected by jury. The second month, March 15 to April 8, showcases work from students from all the art classes and faculty/staff.

See more artwork on page 10.



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