



Firefly Aerospace Announces Alpha Block II Configuration Upgrade for Flight 8

January 13, 2026

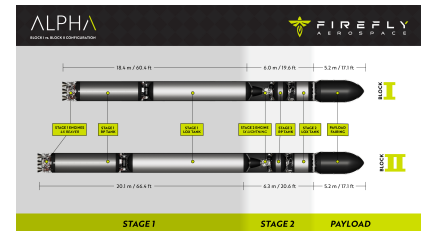
Block II upgrade designed to increase reliability and expand Alpha's capability to support responsive launches across the globe

Firefly Alpha Block II - Stage 2 Hardware



Qualification testing underway for Alpha Block II second stage hardware for Flight 8 on Firefly's test stand at its Rocket Ranch in Briggs, Texas.

Alpha Block I vs. Block II



Rendering of Firefly's Alpha Block I configuration vs. Block II

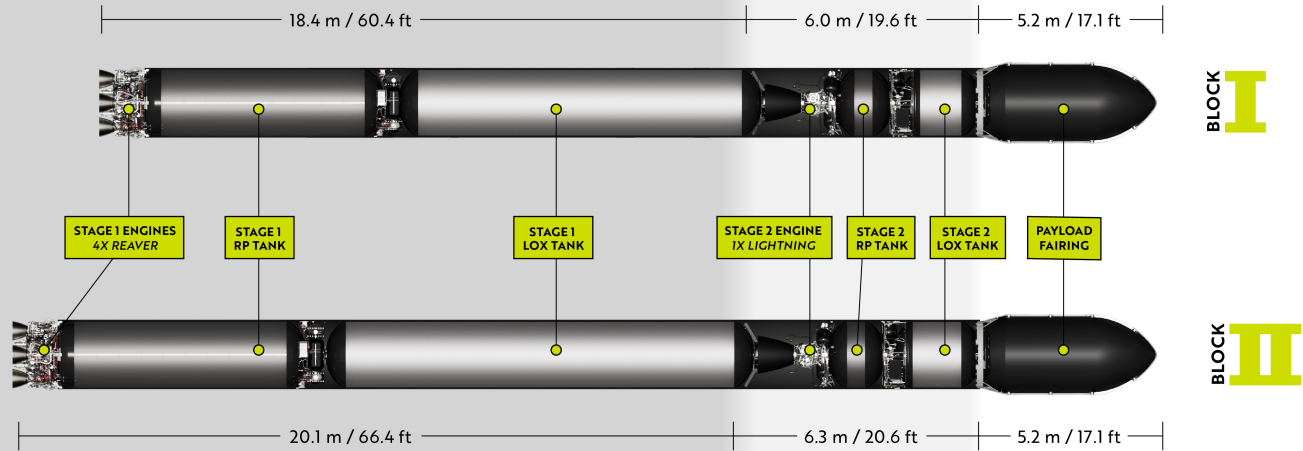


CEDAR PARK, Texas, Jan. 13, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Firefly Aerospace](#) (Nasdaq: FLY), a market leading space and defense technology company, announced a Block II configuration upgrade for its Alpha rocket with a focus on enhancing reliability, streamlining producibility, and improving launch operations to further support commercial, civil, and national security mission demand.

Firefly's upcoming Alpha Flight 7, targeted to launch in the coming weeks, will be the last flown in the current configuration and will serve as a test flight with multiple Block II subsystems in shadow mode to gain flight heritage and validate lessons learned ahead of the full Block II upgrade on Alpha Flight 8.

"The Block II upgrade has been part of Firefly's strategic growth plan to meet the evolving needs of the growing global launch market and further supports Firefly's culture of continuous improvement with a focus on enhanced safety, quality, and reliability," said Jason Kim, CEO of Firefly Aerospace. "Firefly worked closely with customers and incorporated data and lessons learned from our first six Alpha launches and hundreds of hardware tests to make upgrades that increase reliability and manufacturability with consolidated parts, key configuration updates, and stronger structures built with automated machinery."

In addition to improving reliability and production rate, Block II is designed to expand Alpha's deployable launch capabilities for critical responsive space missions, such as hypersonic testing, national security missions including Golden Dome, and commercial satellite launches for domestic and international customers.



STAGE 1

STAGE 2

PAYLOAD

The planned Block II upgrades set to launch on Alpha Flight 8 include the following:

- **Increased length and structural strength:** Increasing Alpha’s length from approximately 97 feet to 104 feet with optimizations for rapid manufacturing on Firefly’s Automated Fiber Placement machine and increased strength of all carbon composite structures.
- **Consolidated in-house batteries and avionics:** Replacing off-the-shelf batteries and avionics with a consolidated system built in-house and used across Firefly’s spacecraft and rockets for increased schedule, reliability, and production efficiencies.
- **Optimized propellant tanks:** Improving thermal protection system for added reliability and optimizing the liquid oxygen and RP-1 tank configurations to increase stage burn time.

Some of these upgrades, including the in-house avionics and thermal improvements, will be tested on Alpha Flight 7. The first stage of the vehicle was recently delivered to Firefly’s launch site at the Vandenberg Space Force Base, and the Firefly team is now conducting final integration with the second stage and payload fairing ahead of the static fire and launch.

“In addition to supporting customer objectives, Firefly is utilizing Flight 7 as an opportunity to test key systems ahead of the full Block II upgrade on Flight 8,” said Adam Oakes, Vice President of Launch at Firefly Aerospace. “This approach allows us to accelerate our planned Block II timeline and validate the improvements designed to enable more mass savings, optimize production, and increase reliability across the entire Alpha vehicle. Our flight-proven Reaver and Lightning engines and carbon composite structures continue to be the backbone of this rocket, so that core technology doesn’t change.”

About Firefly Aerospace

Firefly Aerospace is a space and defense technology company that enables government and commercial customers to launch, land, and operate in space – anywhere, anytime. As the partner of choice for responsive space missions, Firefly is the only commercial company to launch a satellite to orbit with an approximate 24-hour notice. Firefly is also the only company to achieve a fully successful landing on the Moon. Established in 2017, Firefly’s engineering, manufacturing, and test facilities are co-located in central Texas to enable rapid innovation. The company’s small- to medium-lift launch vehicles, lunar landers, and orbital vehicles are built with common flight-proven technologies to enable speed, reliability, and cost efficiencies for each mission from low Earth orbit to the Moon and beyond. For more information, visit www.fireflyspace.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains “forward-looking statements” including, but not limited to, statements regarding the expected timetable for Alpha Flight 7 and the benefits of the Alpha Block II upgrade and other statements regarding Firefly’s future expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, financial conditions, assumptions, future events, or performance that are not historical facts. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements because they contain words such as “may,” “will,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “could,” “would,” “intends,” “believes.” There may also be negative words or other similar terms or expressions that concern our expectations, strategy, plans, or intentions. Not all forward-looking statements contain such identifying words. The inclusion of forward-looking statements should not be regarded as a representation that such plans, estimates, or expectations will be achieved. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements contained herein, which speak only as of the date hereof. These statements are based on management’s current expectations, assumptions, and beliefs concerning future developments, which are inherently subject to uncertainties, risks, and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. We cannot assure you that the events reflected in the forward-looking statements will occur; actual events could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. In addition to the risks and uncertainties of our ordinary business operations and conditions in the general economy and markets in which we compete, the forward-looking statements in this press release are subject to the risks, uncertainties, and other factors disclosed in our filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including our Form S-1 Registration Statement as amended and our Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2025, which risks, uncertainties, and other factors could

cause actual events to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date as of which such statement is made, and except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements whether because of new information, future events; etc.

Media Contact

press@fireflyspace.com

Photos accompanying this announcement are available at:

<https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/a3aaf6ab-b9fd-4845-b3ed-e300c78faab8>

<https://www.globenewswire.com/NewsRoom/AttachmentNg/70f164bc-436c-4bb3-8bc4-ef047f3602d4>