

UPSIDE PODCAST — #Episode 107

Europe just reached orbit from its own soil for the first time

A genuine milestone, and a reminder of how far behind we still are.



WHAT HAPPENED

Isar Aerospace put five satellites into orbit on 5 September

The Munich company's Spectrum rocket launched from Andøya Spaceport in Norway, becoming the first privately developed European vehicle to reach orbit from continental Europe. **It came 524 days after its first flight failed 30 seconds after lift-off.**



THE SCALE PROBLEM

192 US launches last year. *Seven from Europe.*

Of roughly 315 orbital launches worldwide in 2025, the US accounted for about 192 and China about 90. Europe managed seven, all from French Guiana. *The US and China together made up around 83% of global launch attempts.*

THE NUMBER THAT REALLY MATTERS

SpaceX alone launched over 80% of everything that went to orbit last year

2,213 tonnes out of roughly 3,020 tonnes globally, from a single company rather than an entire country. Spectrum, by comparison, carries up to one tonne to low Earth orbit.



WHY IT MATTERS

Cheap mass changes what becomes *worth doing at all*

Container ships did more than move existing cargo cheaply. They changed what made sense to trade. The space economy is projected to grow from \$630 billion in 2023 to \$1.8 trillion by 2035, covering communications, Earth observation, navigation, defence and manufacturing. Access to orbit sits underneath all of it.

63.45%

+32.69%

CLOSER

A genuine first for Europe. *Now we need the heavy lift.*

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