

# Molniya M Failure Cause Reported

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Here is a report on the probable cause of the June 21 Molniya M launch failure. Note that the final result of this event, the engine self destruction, is the same failure mode that the Shuttle LH2 tank ECO sensors are designed to prevent!

["http://www.moscowtimes.ru/stories/2005/07/18/015.html](http://www.moscowtimes.ru/stories/2005/07/18/015.html)

"As for the Molnia-M, a ban on launches of that type of rocket, which was imposed after the June 21 failure, will give investigators time to run tests to ensure that it does not face future launch problems, a Space Forces official told Interfax on Friday.

Investigators have determined that the June 21 failure was the result of a glitch that caused excessive fuel consumption by the second-stage engine, leading to the destruction of the engine, a Space Forces official said by telephone."

- Ed Kyle

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