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ORBITAL REFLECTOR STATUS REPORT

Reno, Nev. (January 18, 2019) – Trevor Paglen, the Nevada Museum of Art, art enthusiasts, and sky watchers across the globe remain anxious to see *Orbital Reflector* in the night sky. Unfortunately, the wait continues. On December 3, *Orbital Reflector* launched into low Earth orbit on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying 64 satellites. This launch, dubbed the Spaceflight Industries SSOA SmallSat Express, was the largest satellite launch in US history. A division of the United States Air Force known as CSpOC is faced with the task of properly identifying each of those satellites so that they can be tracked as they orbit the earth. Six weeks post-launch, that task is still not complete; only half of the satellites from the launch have been properly identified. Many of the satellites that launched together remain in a cluster and until they separate it is difficult to correctly identify each one. With the government shutdown, we have no indication of how much longer it will take until the NORAD ID number become available.

Both the unprecedented launch and prolonged government shutdown also present other challenges. Prior to the holidays, we had been working very closely with the FCC and other relevant space-related authorities to deploy the balloon at the right time for a safe trajectory. The FCC had asked us to wait for their go-ahead before we deploy the balloon. Since the government shutdown began, communication with the FCC has been suspended, as they are not operational at this time. Of course, we want to ensure the safest possible mission both for *Orbital Reflector* but also for our neighbors in space (including the ISS!). As Trevor Paglen has stated, “Space is hard!”

Despite these challenging circumstances, the *Orbital Reflector* engineers continue to communicate with the satellite, and all systems appear healthy. The team is hopeful that the satellite can withstand the wait during the unforeseen government shutdown. Time will tell.

If you have downloaded the mobile application Star Walk 2 to your phone, you can search for *Orbital Reflector*. You will see all the information about the satellite in the app. Though it appears to be tracking, that information is not live. It will activate when the tracking information becomes available, as will the customized star map on the *Orbital Reflector* website.

Trevor Paglen and the Nevada Museum of Art deeply appreciate the support, patience, and enthusiasm that project donors, fans, and the watchful public have expressed as news of this historic project continues to unfold.

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The Nevada Museum of Art is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the Reno-based institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunities for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. The Museum’s **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, the Center for Land Use Interpretation, Ugo Rondinone, and Trevor Paglen. Learn more at nevadaart.org.