Solar Activity and Geomagnetic Report

Reporting Period: 17–18 February 2026

1. CME Alert Correction

The CACTUS halo CME alert issued at 13:44 UTC on 18 February reporting a halo CME with launch time 05:48 UTC was identified as a false detection. A partial halo CME with launch time around 04:48 UTC on 18 February was observed, directed south-westward. This CME is backsided and will not affect Earth.

Parameter	Value
Onset Time (t0)	2026-02-18T05:48:17.518 UTC
Liftoff Duration (dt0)	5.0 hours
Principal Angle (pa)	129 degrees
Angular Width (da)	360 degrees
Median Velocity (v)	746 km/s
Velocity Variation (dv)	503 km/s
Minimum Velocity	172 km/s
Maximum Velocity	2020 km/s

2. Solar Activity

Solar flaring activity was low with only C-class flares detected. The largest event was a C1.8 flare (SIDC Flare 7043) peaking at 23:23 UTC on 17 February, produced by SIDC Sunspot Group 762 (NOAA Active Regions 4342 and 4374). Five numbered sunspot groups were identified on the solar disk. Solar activity is expected to remain low to moderate over the next 24 hours.

3. Particle Flux

The greater than 10 MeV GOES proton flux remained below threshold. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux exceeded the 1000 pfu threshold at various intervals as measured by GOES-18 and GOES-19, in response to high speed streams (HSS) from SIDC Coronal Hole 146. The 24-hour electron fluence was at moderate levels.

4. Geomagnetic Conditions

Geomagnetic conditions were quiet to unsettled (Kp 2–3). Unsettled to moderate storm conditions (K 3–6) are expected due to continued high speed streams and possible earlier arrival of an interplanetary CME associated with the 16 February eruption. Solar wind speed ranged between

483 and 610 km/s. The interplanetary magnetic field ranged from 3 to 6 nT, with Bz reaching -4 nT.