



NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips June 2020

NewSpace New Mexico in partnership with [Agenda](#) is happy to present our monthly media reports. These reports will be delivered to your inbox every month – highlighting important industry-related stories from a broad range of state and national sources.

New Mexico is the place for space!

AFRL rolls-out new rapid contract award tool for space technology research

[Air Force Press Release, June 1, 2020](#)

The Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate uses Space Technology Advanced Research (STAR). STAR is a “rapid acquisition capability” that accelerates contract award times. Thus far, the STAR has made four rapid contract awards equal to \$9.8 million. Through the STAR solicitation, the lab has made four rapid contract awards totaling \$9.8 million. The most recent award was to SolAero Technologies of Albuquerque for \$4.5 million to develop “Next Generation Solar Power Modules.”

Reap the Rewards

[Sierra County Sentinel, June 3, 2020](#)

Joe Bullington from Jacobs Technology talks about how New Mexico “is at the early stages of increasing economic benefit from the commercial space industry” and how there are great opportunities in space and the space industry through both government and private companies.

AFRL Targets Space Ops in New Orbits

[Air Warfare, Space, June 5, 2020](#)

According to the Space Vehicles Directorate Col. Eric Felt the Air Force Research Laboratory begins to focus on “nontraditional orbits” such as areas “near the Moon and very low orbits where satellites need constant boosting to keep from plummeting

back to Earth.” Col. Felt is also hosting an internal contest between four teams in order to develop new projects and programs at AFRL.

Space- the Jump Start New Mexico's Economy Needs

[Santa Fe New Mexican, June 15, 2020](#)

An upcoming once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is upon us to leverage our many space assets to achieve unbounded economic growth to make New Mexico the place for space. Casey Anglada DeRaad from NewSpace New Mexico talks about how “States experiencing the most growth in the new space industry are seeing their state and federal partners working together to support, invest and expand the space economy.”

Heinrich Secures Significant Advancements for National Laboratories, New Mexico Military Installations, Artificial Intelligence in Annual Defense Spending Bill

[News Break, June 15, 2020](#)

“This bill makes major investments to ensure our Armed Forces are equipped with the state-of-the-art technology needed to stay ahead of our adversaries. New Mexico is the center of excellence for small satellites and for directed energy weapons, and this bill increases funding and streamlines authorities to bolster those missions. I am also proud to have incorporated language that will advance the Department of Defense’s Artificial Intelligence capabilities and ensure that America stays at the cutting edge of technological advancement. I will continue fighting to include language to maintain the independence of Kirtland Air Force Base’s Space Rapid Capabilities Office and placing a Space Training and Readiness command program in New Mexico,” Heinrich added.

Boeing Among Recipients of June Hiring Incentives in NM

[Albuquerque Journal, June 17, 2020](#)

Four technology-related employers, including Boeing Co. and X-Bow Launch Systems Inc., received a total of more than \$1 million in state incentives this month to help recruit and train 43 employees and interns in Albuquerque, according to the state Economic Development Department.

Planting the Seeds of Technology for the Future Space Force

[Space News, June 19, 2020](#)

The U.S. Space Force is small in size but big on technology. To stay ahead of rivals that are trying to compete with U.S. military might, the Space Force needs a research-and-development organization that brings a broad pipeline of ideas. That essentially is the role of the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Space Vehicles Directorate, Col. Eric Felt explained during a June 4 SpaceNews webinar.

2021 Spaceport America Cup Dates Announced

[SpaceRef, June 19, 2020](#)

Spaceport America is pleased to announce dates and plans for the 2021 event. The Spaceport America Cup be held June 22–26, 2021 and is anticipated to be the largest competition in event history with an all-new competition category. The Spaceport America Cup is the largest intercollegiate rocketry competition in the world and draws thousands of students and spectators to southern New Mexico each year.

New Company Plans to Launch Passengers from Kennedy Space Center Dangling from a Balloon

[The Times Tribune, June 20, 2020](#)

A pair of self-described serial entrepreneurs, best-known for flying a KFC chicken sandwich into space and living two years sealed inside a biosphere, are attempting to start a new human spaceflight company that instead of launching rockets will lift civilian passengers into the sky tethered to a high-performance balloon.

NASA's First Female Space Chief Kathy Lueders Will Lead A U.S. Return to the Moon

[News Beezer, June 21, 2020](#)

Kathy Lueders, who was manager of NASA's commercial crew program during the launch of SpaceX's Crew Dragon Demo 2 mission, will attend a press conference on May 30, 2020 after NASA's successful launch at NASA's Kennedy Space Center – Astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the International Space Station. Two weeks later, she was promoted to head of NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Directorate. (Photo credit: Kim Shiflett / NASA). The first woman to be responsible for NASA's manned space program will oversee the first mission to land a woman on the moon. She expects “really big things” to come from the next generation of young female space enthusiasts.

Virgin Galactic Signs Space Act Agreement with NASA for Private Orbital Spaceflight to the International Space Station

[JotUp, June 22, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic Holdings, Inc. ,a vertically integrated aerospace company, announced today the signing of a Space Act Agreement with NASA's Johnson Space Center to encourage commercial participation in orbital human spaceflight to the International Space Station while enabling the development of a robust economy in Low Earth Orbit.

Oscoda EIC Shares Spaceport Efforts

[Oscoda Press, June 23, 2020](#)

Participation in the 2020 North American Space Summit (NASS) was among the items discussed at the June 9 Oscoda Township Economic Improvement Committee meeting. Gathering in person at the Huron Shores Artisan Hall, for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee went over the latest details regarding both NASS and the spaceport endeavor.

Spaceport activity rebounds from coronavirus disruption

[Albuquerque Journal, June 23, 2020](#)

Two tenants at Spaceport America, APSMobile INC. and Virgin Galactic continue their commercial operations after the slow down caused by coronavirus. HAPSMobile Inc. invested \$8 million to construct a runway and hanger where they could test and develop a “novel, solar- powered unmanned aerial vehicle” that could make an internet connection available in remote regions. Virgin Galactic has completed a couple more “pilot proficiency” flights for its VMS mothership that carries the VSS Unity spaceship.

White House Official Recommends Slow Approach to High-Speed Suborbital Transportation

[Space News, June 23, 2020](#)

A White House official said June 22 that while the administration supports commercial space transportation, companies with ambitions of high-speed point-to-point suborbital spaceflight should focus on near-term goals instead.

VSS Unity performs second glide test at the Spaceport

[Albuquerque Journal, June 25, 2020](#)

VSS Unity spaceship performs its second glide test at Spaceport America. This time the VMS Eve mothership carried the Unity to 51,000 feet. This is the second Unity glide flight since the beginning of May and allows Virgin Galactic “to evaluate systems and vehicle performance before moving in to powered flights from the spaceport”.

NASA’S Next Mars Rover Honors Medical Teams Fighting Virus

[Orlando Sentinel, June 26, 2020](#)

NASA’s next Mars rover is honoring all the medical workers on the front lines of the coronavirus battle around the world. With just another month until liftoff, the space agency on Wednesday revealed a commemorative plate attached to the rover, aptly named Perseverance.

Virgin Galactic Gears Up for Space Again with Test Over its New Mexico Spaceport

[Orlando Sentinel, June 26, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic has already sent its first ship into space, and more than once, but now that it’s moved to its new spaceport in New Mexico, it’s learning to glide again before it can return to space. Two crew members took the SpaceShipTwo Unity for a high-speed drop and glide flight over Spaceport America in Las Cruces, N.M. on Thursday, the second successful test flight for the vehicle over the home where Virgin hopes to begin space tourism flights in the future.

Virgin Galactic Edges Closer to Commercial Spaceflight After Latest Test

[The Entrepreneur Fund, June 28, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic can start preparing for powered test flights after a successful second glide test of SpaceShipTwo, a key step toward the start of commercial spaceflights.



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