



NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips August 2020

What a month for space! There has been lots of great news! 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!

HQ U.S. Space Command in New Mexico?

Albuquerque, New Mexico is now one of 31 locations nationwide that the U.S. Department of Defense is considering to set up a new headquarters for the U.S. Space Command. This would be great for New Mexico and it would bring more than 1,000 new jobs to the city along with opportunities for the local industry. It is not why here in New Mexico but why not! New Mexico has major assets and resources that make it a formidable contender, including the space related defense entities that operate at Kirtland Air Force Base, plus extensive military infrastructure in Albuquerque and elsewhere, including White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico, which offers testing and inland launch capabilities, DeRaad said.

Here are a few articles all discussing this great opportunity for Albuquerque.

- **NM in running to land Space Command**
[Albuquerque Journal, August 15, 2020](#)
- **Outer space could be NM's newest economic frontier**
[Albuquerque Journal, August 15, 2020](#)
- **ABQ the right HQ launchpad for Space Command**
[Albuquerque Journal, August 29, 2020](#)

- **Albuquerque one step closer to potentially being home for U.S. Space Command**
[KRQE, August 14, 2020](#)
- **ABQ among 31 locations contending to become home to U.S. Space Command**
[Albuquerque Business First, August 14, 2020](#)
- **New Mexico makes a push for US Space Command**
[Antelope Valley Press, August 17, 2020](#)

Closer to Takeoff

[Albuquerque Journal, August 4, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic progresses closer and closer to flying the company founder Sir Richard Branson to space in early 2021. This fall they expect to begin powered test flights from Spaceport America in New Mexico. The company had been able to collect key data on performance and experience for the pilots through two glide flights over spaceport with its passenger rocket, the VSS Unity.

Virgin Galactic Shows Off Passenger Spaceship Cabin Interior

[Orlando Sentinel, August 5, 2020](#)

Passengers flying Virgin Galactic on suborbital trips into space will be able to see themselves floating weightless against the backdrop of the Earth below while 16 cameras document the adventures, the company said Tuesday.

Landmark Agreement Unites Parties in Boosting Commercial Space Operations in California

[Slochamber, August 5, 2020](#)

Leaders from the State of California, REACH, the 30th Space Wing, Cal Poly State University and Deloitte today announced a commitment to develop a thriving spaceport at Vandenberg Air Force Base and the surrounding area. According to the [memorandum of understanding](#), the parties will develop a master plan that identifies the required infrastructure, human capital development, governance and financing necessary to support the United States Space Force mission

Stakeholders Unveil Plan to Build Thriving Spaceport Vandenberg AFB, Bolster Local Economy

[SYV News, August 5, 2020](#)

Representatives of [REACH](#), a Regional Economic Action Coalition with a focus on the Central Coast, hosted a morning webinar with civic and business leaders to formally announce the signing of an agreement that aims to capitalize on the growing space industry by better positioning Vandenberg Air Force Base as a thriving spaceport of the future.

The New Space Age

The New Space Force, public private partnerships, and commercial industry create new opportunities! NewSpace New Mexico is connecting the space industry to these opportunities to build partnerships and grow the state and the nation's commercial space industry base. Here are a few great Space articles by Kevin Robinson-Avila in the Albuquerque Journal.

- **Redux**
[Albuquerque Journal, August 10, 2020](#)

- **Strategy for the new space age is evolving**

[Albuquerque Journal, August 10, 2020](#)

Military's Link 16 headed to new heights

[Albuquerque Journal, August 10, 2020](#)

The U.S. military is working to use commercially operated low- Earth orbit (LOE) satellites. This will significantly improve land, sea, and air-based encrypted communications. The Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate at Kirtland Air Force Base gave an award to a California- based communications firm, ViaSat to place a Link 16 terminal on a LOE satellite as a test pilot to show if the military network can operate from space. The first pilot Link 16- equipped satellite will launch in early 2021. If successful, the military can then partner with certain commercial companies.

Beaming solar power from space to Earth

[Albuquerque Journal, August 10, 2020](#)

Air Force Research Laboratory, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and private industry partners in New Mexico and elsewhere are creating "game changing" technology using solar power collected in space. "A rectifying antenna is all that's needed to receive power from space to anywhere on the globe", states James Winter, SSPIDR manager.

There's a New Global Space Race, and New Mexico Plans to be a Player

[Stripes, August 10, 2020](#)

New Mexico is front and center in a new global race to dominate space, and it's creating huge commercial opportunities for the emerging space industry here and elsewhere. The U.S. Department of Defense is rapidly standing up its new Space Force, approved in December by President Donald Trump as the sixth branch of the military. And, by and large, the DOD is turning to private industry to provide the 21st-century technology needed to maintain U.S. leadership as the world moves to conquer the final frontier.

DoD Technology Buyers Defend Need for Secrecy in Space Programs

[Space News, August 13, 2020](#)

The head of a U.S. Space Force office that develops sensitive technologies said declassifying space programs would make it easier for adversaries to get a leg up on the United States. "What we do is classified for a reason, it's because we're trying to get out in front of the threat," Michael Roberts, director and program executive officer of the Space Rapid Capabilities Office, said Aug. 13 on a virtual forum hosted by the Mitchell Institute.

SpaceX's South Texas resort, the Air Force Makes its Picks

[ARS Technica, August 14, 2020](#)

Mike Griffin joins the board of Rocket Lab. Who had NASA's former chief joining the board of directors at Rocket Lab on their 2020 bingo card? Not us. But on Wednesday, the company announced it added Griffin to its board, joining company founder Peter Beck and three investors: Sven Strohband of Khosla Ventures, David Cowan of Bessemer Venture Partners, and Matt Ocko of DCVC. The announcement came a little more than a month after Griffin resigned from his position as undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, [SpaceNews reports](#).

Wisdom from the Women Leading the Space Industry

[Medium, August 16, 2020](#)

Janet E. Petro has been the deputy director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) since 2007 and shares responsibility with the center director for managing civil service and contractor workforce, establishing and implementing center policy, and managing and executing KSC missions and agency program responsibilities.

Eye in the Sceye

[Albuquerque Journal, August 18, 2020](#)

Aerospace startup Sceye Inc. in New Mexico works on building helium- filled airships by 2022. The Economic Development Department in New Mexico has pledged \$5 million in Local Economic Development Act funding to help this company establish a facility here in New Mexico. This production facility will bring 140 new manufacturing and engineering jobs to the state.

Coalition for Deep Space Exploration Announces Leadership Transition

[Parabolic, August 19, 2020](#)

[The Coalition for Deep Space Exploration](#) (Coalition) announced today that Dr. Mary Lynne Dittmar will be stepping down as president and chief executive officer by the end of the year. The Coalition's board has begun an extensive search for candidates within the aerospace industry. Dr. Dittmar will continue to serve as president and CEO of the Coalition until new leadership is appointed.

Fiore wins \$130M NASA lab security contract

[Albuquerque Journal, August 21, 2020](#)

Fiore Industries Inc, an Albuquerque engineering and support services firm won a 10-year \$130 million contract to provide protective services at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. "We'll provide dispatchers, guards, firefighters — all levels of emergency response," Miera said. Although well-known for its high-tech engineering expertise, the company has also provided protective services for government facilities throughout its 31-year history.

NM Delegation applauds space exploration grants to UNM, NMSU, Navajo Technical College

[Tom Udall, August 24, 2020](#)

New Mexico Delegation is supporting the growth of the space industry in New Mexico. The delegation applauds NASA awards of nearly \$2.3 million combined "to New Mexico universities for fellowships supporting minority and underrepresented students in STEM fields and innovative research for space exploration programs."

Six Ways to Buy A Ticket to Space in 2021

[Discover, August 26, 2020](#)

Space tourism could finally become a reality next year. These space companies are either already selling seats to private customers, or soon will be.

NASA Awards Grants to Minority Serving Institutions to Improve Participation in Engineering

[Milaero, August 26, 2020](#)

NASA has awarded 14 planning grants to Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) through its Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP), part of the agency's Office of STEM Engagement. The grants, totaling more than \$587,000, are part of a phased partnership effort with the National Science Foundation (NSF).

New Mexico Company Wins Major Space Contract, to Add 60 Jobs

[Trade and Industry Development, August 27, 2020](#)

A New Mexico company with operational ties to Spaceport America has been awarded a major contract at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes announced. Fiore Industries Inc. has secured the 10-year contract from JPL in Pasadena, CA. to provide campus-wide security and fire protection services. The newly awarded contract provides JPL with critical life safety support for all campus personnel and is worth \$130 million over the next decade.

AFRL awards UNM \$25M for space-related research

[Albuquerque Journal, August 31, 2020](#)

Nearly \$25M was awarded to one of our NewSpace Alliance members, the University of New Mexico, for scientists and students to help the Air Force Research Laboratory build next-generation space technology. They provide direct experience and mentoring for students to become the next generation of scientists and engineers. Launched in 2007, COSMIAC conducts a broad array of space related research and building next-generation talent is critical where Space Force and other Space organizations are front and center in this new space age!

A Third of Those with Over \$5 Million Would Consider a Virgin Galactic Space Flight

[What's New 2 Day, August 31, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic completed its second test flight on June 25 from its new base in New Mexico – an extraordinary 'spaceport' from which the paying astronauts will take off. All previous test flights were from their location in the Mojave Desert in California.

NASA, Boeing Target December for Starliner, Redo, Next June for Crewed Flight

[Orlando Sentinel, August 31, 2020](#)

NASA and Boeing are getting back on track to get their commercial partnership to ferry astronauts to and from the International Space Station on board the CST-100 Starliner.

International Open Letter on Space Mining

[Parabolicarc, August 31, 2020](#)

The Outer Space Institute is pleased to publish the International Open Letter on Space Mining, which stresses the need for a multilateral agreement on the exploration, exploitation, and utilization of space resources and calls on states to present a resolution at the UN General Assembly that urges the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to negotiate a draft of such an agreement.

COSMIAC Hopes to Expand Space Tech Talent Pipeline

[Abq Journal, August 31, 2020](#)

University of New Mexico scientists and students will help the Air Force Research Laboratory build next-generation space technology under two new AFRL contracts totaling nearly \$25 million. The awards will finance basic research on new space communications technology, upgrades to the nation's Global Positioning System, and impacts of radiation on satellites and other spacecraft to make defense-related space operations – and, in turn, civilian and commercial systems – far more robust and resilient.



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