



NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips September 2020

Happy Fall! 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 announces two new space flight experiments

[AFRL News Release, September 2, 2020](#)

The Space Vehicles Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) put on a competition to select the next set of flight experiments. Col. Eric Felt, Director of the AFRL Space Vehicles Directorate announced that the two winning concepts are Precise and Cislunar Highway Patrol System (CHPS). The Precise flight experiment represents a new orbital regime for AFRL in Very Low Earth Orbit, while the second project, CHPS, will experiment with Space Domain Awareness beyond Geosynchronous Earth Orbit all the way out to the moon.

Air Force Research Laboratory tracks Sporadic E

[AFRL News Release, September 3, 2020](#)

There is a naturally occurring phenomenon in the upper atmosphere called “Sporadic E” and Air Force Research Laboratory in New Mexico has found a new way to track and characterize it. These plasma structures occur at mid altitude locations around the world and disrupt radio frequency electromagnetic waves. They also impact both DoD and civilian radio systems in both positive and negative ways.

Gardner, Sinema, Cramer, And Heinrich Launch U.S. Senate Space Force Caucus

[Cory Gardner, September 9, 2020](#)

On September 9, 2020 U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ),

Kevin Cramer (R-ND), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) announced the launch of the U.S. Senate Space Force Caucus. The co-chairs of the caucus also invited their colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join and support the sixth branch of the U.S. military

Albuquerque makes its case for hosting U.S. Space Command

[Albuquerque Business First, September 11, 2020](#)

Albuquerque continues to make its case for hosting the U.S. Space Command by showing the many opportunities available here in New Mexico for the space industry. Winning this bid would potentially open new possibilities for businesses in Albuquerque as well. Some services that may be needed to make this push include, “Initially, services support companies will be needed as they set up their campus and facilities. Military members will need family support services. Then organizations to help with workforce hiring (and) recruiting,” Casey DeRaad, CEO of industry group NewSpace New Mexico told Business first.

AFRL Technology traveling to Mars

[AFRL News Release, September 14, 2020](#)

NASA’s Mars 2020 Perseverance rover along with a 4-pound Mars Helicopter named Ingenuity plans to touch down on Mars in February 2021. The Ingenuity is the first helicopter to attempt controlled flight on another planet. It will also assess the viability of flight in the harsh extreme environment on Mars. The Perseverance rover will look for signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples that could possibly return to Earth.

Is Earth-moon Space the US Military’s New High Ground?

[Space, September 17, 2020](#)

U.S. military space policy officials have increasingly flagged a new role in guarding American assets and interests in Earth-moon space. This evolving doctrine extends to the moon's surface, given NASA's Artemis program of crewed lunar exploration and American companies' plans to mine moon resources such as water ice.

How SpaceX, Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin and Others Compete in the Growing Space Tourism Market

[Across the Fader, September 26, 2020](#)

UBS in a report last year estimated that space tourism, with both suborbital and orbital together, has a potential market value of \$3 billion by 2030. More recently, space industry consultancy Northern Sky Research broke out its expectations for suborbital versus orbital tourism. By 2028, NSR expects suborbital will be a \$2.8 billion market, with \$10.4 billion in total revenue over the next decade, while orbital will be a \$610 million market, with \$3.6 billion in total revenue over the next decade

Industry and Government Leaders Address Global Threats at Space & Cybersecurity Symposium 2020

[National Cybersecurity, September 28, 2020](#)

“The security of the homeland depends on the security of our space systems, interests and freedom of our action in space,” said Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, who issued a statement with the latest directives release. “The policy unveiled today is a critical step in establishing a baseline standard for cybersecurity as America leads in space and cyberspace alike.”

ABQ engineering firm wins one of its largest government contract awards yet

[Albuquerque Business First, September 29, 2020](#)

Verus Research located in Albuquerque was awarded a multi- million-

dollar government contract, one of the engineering firm's largest award yet. They received \$23.4 million award with the Army on Sept. 15 and it will provide military test ranges with non- kinetic and evaluation capabilities in directed energy and electronic warfare.

Virgin Galactic Shares Soar as Space Tourism Expectations Rise

[Travel News Wire, September 29, 2020](#)

Shares of Virgin Galactic surged nearly 25% which is highest one-day increase since April. The stock in total has gained 78% this year. Bank of America analyst Ronald Epstein set a \$35 price target, more than double Virgin Galactic's closing price on Friday.



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