

## 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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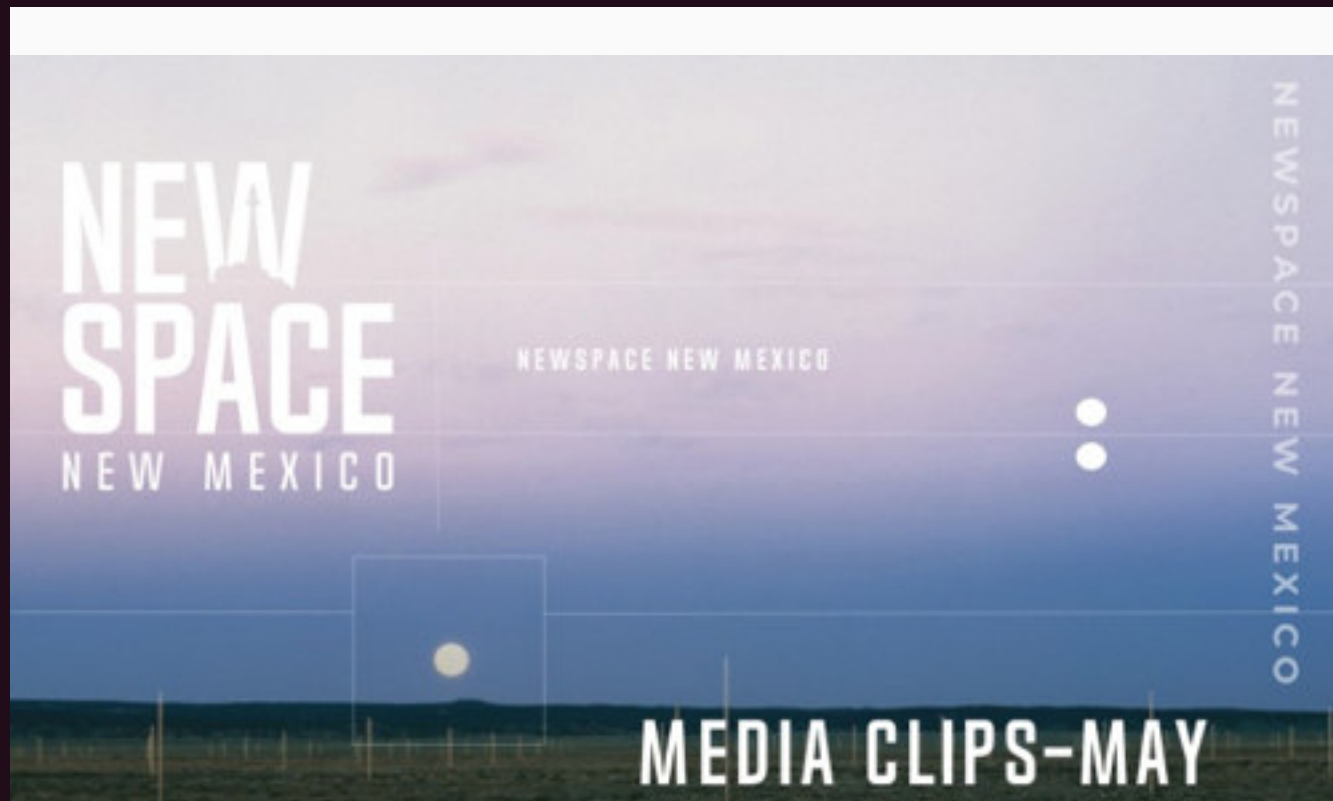
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## **NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips May 2020**

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### **Branson's Virgin Orbit Fails on First Rocket Launch Attempt**

[Democrat-Herald, May 25, 2020](#)

Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit failed Monday in its first test launch of a new rocket carried aloft by a Boeing 747 and released over the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California.

### **Space Conference Develops Solutions to Expand U.S Leadership in Space**

[Spaceref, May 12, 2020](#)

In a first-of-a-kind, collaborative, virtual solutions workshop, NewSpace New Mexico hosted the State of the Space Industrial Base 2020 from May 4-7, as a follow-up to the 2019 in-person meeting. The virtual workshop brought together over 150 industry stakeholders to identify actions necessary to develop and sustain the United States' economic and military leadership in space. Industry leaders, representatives from the Executive Office of the President, Department of Defense (DoD), NASA, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, and academia virtually gathered to develop recommendations.

### **Virgin Galactic Enter Space Act Agreement with NASA to Advance High Mach Technologies**

[Jot/Up, May 5, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:SPCE) (Virgin Galactic or the Company) and its wholly owned subsidiary, The Spaceship Company (TSC), announced today the

signing of a Space Act Agreement with NASA to facilitate the development of high-speed technologies.

### **Virgin Galactic aims for Mach-speed travel**

[Albuquerque Journal, May 11, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic works to advance its technologies through important partnerships with other companies. In partnership with The Spaceship Co. Virgin announced a new Space Act Agreement with NASA. This agreement allows them to work on the technology needed to develop high speed point- to point travel. In order to accomplish this the company has also formed a partnership with Boeing to develop high- speed mobility.

### **AFRL Satellite Duo Probing Earth's Radiation Belts**

[Air Force Press Release, May 14, 2020](#)

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic the Air Force Research Laboratory's Demonstration and Science Experiments (DSX) spacecraft continues to make great things happens. They launched into orbit on June 25, 2019 and then in February 2020 it was joined by a small satellite built by AFRL, the Very Low Frequency Propagation Mapper (VPM). These two satellites are meant to study the dynamics of the Earth's natural radiation belts and find ways 'to protect low heath orbiting spacecraft from the effects of high- altitude nuclear explosions.'

### **SpaceX successfully launches first crew to orbit, ushering in new era of spaceflight**

[The Verge, May 30, 2020](#)

After nearly two decades of effort, Elon Musk's aerospace company, SpaceX, successfully launched its first two people into orbit, ushering in a new age of human spaceflight in the United States. The flight marked the first-time astronauts have launched into orbit from American soil in nearly a decade, and SpaceX is now the first company to send passengers to orbit on a privately made vehicle.

### **NASA astronauts aboard the International Space Station after Dragon capsule successfully docks**

[Washington Post, May 31, 2020](#)

After blasting off from the Kennedy Space Center here Saturday afternoon, and then whizzing around the Earth at speeds that eventually hit 17,500 mph, the SpaceX spacecraft carrying two NASA astronauts docked with the International Space Station Sunday morning, completing the first leg of a historic journey.

### **SpaceX's 1st astronaut launch was NASA's most-watched online event ever**

[Space.com, June 2, 2020](#)

On Saturday (May 30), SpaceX launched its first-ever crewed mission, a test flight called Demo-2 that sent NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the International Space Station (ISS).

The liftoff was the first orbital crewed launch to depart from American soil since NASA retired its space shuttle fleet in 2011. And a record number of people tuned in to watch the milestone online, agency officials said.

### **What the future of the space station looks like after SpaceX's historic launch**

[The Verge, June 2, 2020](#)

With the success of SpaceX's Crew Dragon launch this weekend, NASA now has the

capability to launch its own astronauts from the US once again — and that means changes are in store for the future of the International Space Station. Soon, a new suite of vehicles could be regularly flying people to the station from the Florida coast, along with the Russian Soyuz rocket that has been solely responsible for taking humans to the outpost since 2011.



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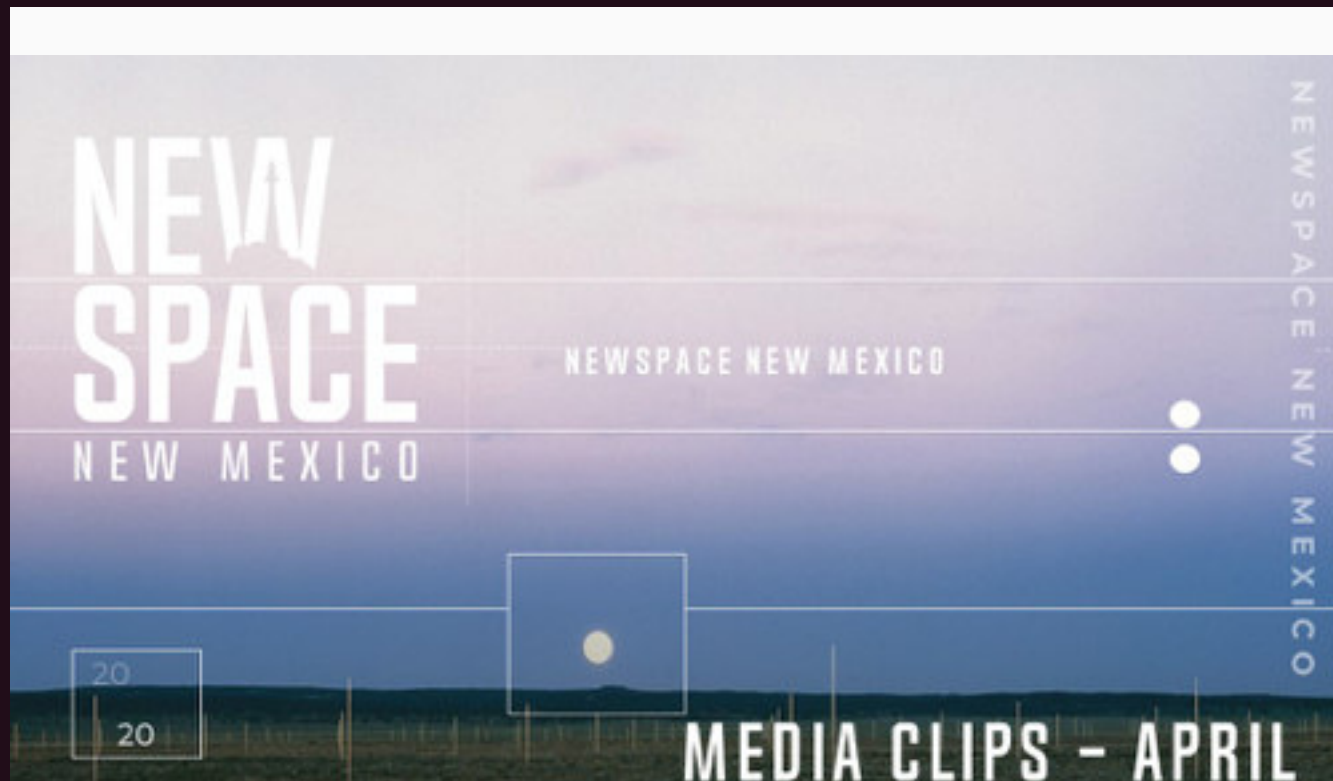
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## **NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips April 2020**

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### **Virgin Galactic: Supporting Our Local Communities in New Mexico in the Fight Against COVID-19**

[Space Ref, April 28, 2020](#)

As part of our relief efforts, we have made several donations of medical supplies to communities and hospitals in California and New Mexico. Donations have included meals, masks, suits, PAPRs, and gloves to local hospitals including Memorial Medical Center, MountainView Regional Medical Center, and Ben Archer Center, as well as offering support to Sierra Vista Hospital in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, the hospital located within Sierra County, where Spaceport America resides.

### **U.S. Space Force Deploying Surveillance Telescope in Australia**

[Defense Alert, April 27, 2020](#)

A U.S.-developed space surveillance telescope has been assembled at a new facility in Western Australia and is expected to start operating in 2022, the U.S. Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center announced April 23. The telescope, designed to

track and identify debris and satellites more than 22,000 miles above Earth.

## **Virgin Galactic Signs Space Act Agreement with NASA in the Fight Against Covid-19**

[New York Style Guide, April 27, 2020](#)

This Space Act Agreement outlines Virgin Galactic's commitment to developing innovative solutions to the problems facing healthcare workers on the frontlines. This is our way of ensuring that the best and brightest at Virgin Galactic can support their local communities during this challenging time and provide life-saving solutions for those suffering from COVID-19.

## **Millennium Space Systems Completes Work on U.S. Space Force's TETRA-1 Small**

[SatNews, April 22, 2020](#)

TETRA-1 is a microsatellite created for various prototype missions in and around geosynchronous earth orbit. TETRA-1 was the first prototype award under the U.S. Space Force's Space and Missile Systems Center's Space Enterprise Consortium Other Transaction Authority (OTA) charter.

## **Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories Raise More Than \$160,000 for Two New Mexico Food Banks**

[Energy, April 16, 2020](#)

Employees from Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories stepped up the challenge last week by raising more than \$160,000 for two food banks in New Mexico.

## **US Space Force Moves Ahead with Orbital Services Program**

[Extra Content, April 14, 2020](#)

The US Space Force has awarded its first task order under the Orbital Services Program-4 (OSP-4). The 35 million dollar award went to a Virgin Orbit subsidiary, VOX Space, LLC of El Segundo, California for launch services for Space Test Program-28. STP-28 will deliver numerous technology experiments to orbit in fields such as Space Domain Awareness

## **Vox Space Receives \$35 Million Task Order from the U.S. Space Force**

[Satnews, April 12, 2020](#)

The U.S. Space Force's Rocket Systems Launch Program (RSLP) Office at Kirtland Air

Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, part of the Space and Missile Systems Center's Launch Enterprise, has awarded a \$35 million task order to [VOX Space, LLC](#), of El Segundo, California, for the Space Test Program-S28 (STP-S28) launch service — this is the first task order under the Orbital Services Program-4 (OSP-4) Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract.

### **AFRL New Mexico Units Identified to Transfer to U.S. Space Force**

[Air Force Material Command, April 9, 2020](#)

The Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland AFB recently received news that some of their missions will transfer to the U.S. Space Force (USSF). AFRL units readying for transfer include most of the Space Vehicles Directorate missions and the Directed Energy Directorate's Electro-Optics Division.

### **New Space New Mexico Offering Great Opportunities For the State**

[KRQE, April 8, 2020](#)

The sky's the limit here in New Mexico when it comes to the growth of our space industry. The opportunities here in the land of enchantment when it comes to the space industry are now growing at a rapid pace. New Space New Mexico was started by Casey Anglada DeRaad as a way to foster a business-focused space ecosystem in New Mexico by making connections, advocating for stakeholders, and preparing for the future. New Space New Mexico is partnering with STEM Boomerang to hold a Space Industry Virtual Career Fair to highlight space opportunities in the state.

### **After a Failed Mission, Boeing Will Repeat Test Flight of its Astronaut Capsule Before Flying with Crew**

[Orlando Sentinel, April 7, 2020](#)

After a [failed December test flight](#) of its astronaut capsule revealed multiple deep-seated problems within Boeing's testing procedures, the company has decided to repeat the test before putting astronauts on board.

### **Crew Training Continues for SpaceX's First Launch with Astronauts**

[Space Flight, April 3, 2020](#)

During a visit to Cape Canaveral this week, NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken strapped in to the SpaceX crew capsule they will ride into orbit as soon as mid-to-late May. Next week, the astronauts will be in Houston to continue training for an extended stay on the International Space Station that

could last two-to-three months.



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