



NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips December 2020

Happy New Year! 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!

The Air Force is Building a Spacecraft that will Beam Solar Power to Earth

[Popular Mechanics, December 30, 2020](#)

Earlier this month, the Air Force Research Laboratory [unveiled a component](#) coyly named Helios (after the [original Greek sun god](#)) for its forthcoming [Arachne spacecraft](#), the main part of the Space Solar Power Incremental Demonstrations and Research (SSPIDR) project. Arachne will launch in 2024.

AFRL spacecraft collects never before seen data

[AFRL News Release, December 22, 2020](#)

Since June 2019, the Air Force Research Laboratory's Demonstration and Science Experiments (DSX) spacecraft has been gathering data on the "interactions of radio waves, space plasma and the radiation belts in near- Earth space."

Space Command Gets a New Home

[Air Force Times, December 31, 2020](#)

The Department of the Air Force in November unveiled the slate of six locations that made the first cut for Space Command headquarters. Those locations include four Air Force bases — Kirtland in New Mexico, Offutt in Nebraska, Patrick in Florida, and Peterson in Colorado, which currently houses Space Command's interim headquarters.

Albuquerque is the perfect place for space! Albuquerque-KAFB has Science & Tech, Space Force, National labs, STEM workforce, and a skilled national security complex ready to stand up the US Space Command headquarters! NewSpace New Mexico agrees with Senator Heinrich! "As the U.S. Space Force determines the right location for Space Command Headquarters, Albuquerque, New Mexico, checks all the right boxes." We have it all!

SpinLaunch expands operation at Spaceport

[ABQ Journal, December 16, 2020](#)

"California-based SpinLaunch Inc. is expanding its operations at Spaceport America in southern New Mexico!" They plan to test new technology that literally flings rockets into space.

Redwire Acquires LoadPath, a Leading Developer of Payload Adapters for the Space Industry

[Parabolic Arc, December 15, 2020](#)

Redwire, a new leader in mission critical space solutions and high reliability components for the next generation space economy, announced today that it has acquired LoadPath, a leading developer of payload adapters, deployable structures, and thermal products for the space industry. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Space Tourism Rewind: Branson and Richardson Announced Spaceport America Deal 15 Years Ago

[Parabolicarc, December 14, 2020](#)

Governor Bill Richardson and Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Companies, today announced that Virgin Galactic, the world's first commercial space tourism business, will locate its world headquarters and Mission Control in New Mexico. The agreement between the State of New Mexico and Virgin Galactic calls for New Mexico to build a \$225 million spaceport in the southern part of the state, on 27- square miles of state land.

AF Taps 'Flying Car' Firms for 'Prime' Investment; Expands Program

[Breaking Defense, December 14, 2020](#)

The Air Force strives to open new markets for next- generation space systems. "The Space Prime effort could support game-changing "space transport and logistics" capabilities, says Col. Eric Felt, head of AFRL's Space Vehicles Directorate."

Virgin Galactic prepares for first spaceflight

Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity was preparing for their first rocket powered flight from New Mexico. They announced their new flight window opened on December 11th . VMS Eve carried the VSS Unity on its underbelly to above 40,000 feet after taking off from the spaceport in southern New Mexico and the rocket broke away from Eve as planned. However, there were technical difficulties and engine suddenly shut down after a moment, forcing the pilots to abort the flight and glide back to Earth where the pilots landed safely at the Spaceport.

Window opens for Virgin Galactic test

[ABQ Journal, December 12, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic Spacecraft Forced to Abort Test Flight

[Space Daily, December 12, 2020](#)

[BBC, December 12, 2020](#)

Virgin Space Plane Set to Fly

[MSN, December 12, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic Flight Test Program Update- VSS Unity Preparing for First Rocket Powered Flight from New Mexico

[Virgin Galactic, December 1, 2020](#)

Here's What We Learned from Morgan Stanley's Annual Space Summit as Investor Interest Booms

[NBC San Diego, December 10, 2020](#)

Morgan Stanley held its annual space summit virtually this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but analyst Adam Jonas told CNBC that hundreds of investors and observers participated in the event on Tuesday as interest in the space industry booms.

SpaceWERX launches during day one of AFWERX Accelerate

[AFRL News Release, December 7, 2020](#)

AFWERX started their Accelerate event with an announcement about the SpaceWERX, a new formation that will focus on technologies for the United State Space Force. They also celebrated the opening of the “first space-focused innovation hub at Los Angeles Air Force Base.” SpaceWERX will be working out of the Los Angeles Air Force Base where they are working discovering great capabilities for our warfighters to use in space.

RS21 takes 1st in Hyperspace Challenge

[ABQ Journal, December 5, 2020](#)

Albuquerque based firm [RS21](#) took first place in the [Hyperspace Challenge!](#) “RS21 created a machine-learning algorithm modeled on data analytics methods used in precision medicine to predict patient outcomes,” said president and CEO Charles Rath.

Virgin lands long-term NASA contract

[ABQ Journal, December 2, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic was awarded a flight services contract from NASA along with five other providers. This contract includes flying technologies for NASA's Flight Opportunities program.

NM Space Industry Heating Up

[New Mexicans for Economic Prosperity, December 1, 2020](#)

The space industry is growing, and we think New Mexico is perfectly positioned to take advantage of that growth and help the USA continue to lead in space.

Air Force Research Labatory Interns Win Prestigious Awards

[AFRL News Release, December 1, 2020](#)

Two Interns from the summer internship, AFRL Scholars Program received the Directed Energy Professional Society's (DEPS) prestigious graduate scholarships. This “scholarship awards honor exemplary, full-time, graduate students who are pursuing development of directed energy technology - specifically high-energy lasers or high-power microwaves.”

ABF reveals the Fastest Growing Companies winners at its 2020 Best in Business

Awards

[ABQ Business First, November 19, 2020](#)

So many great companies were honored at the ABF 2020 Best in Business Awards! 7 of these companies are space companies: Fiore Industries Inc., Goodman Technologies, [Montech Inc.](#), [LoadPath](#), [RS21](#), [Sunny505](#), and Verus Research.



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