

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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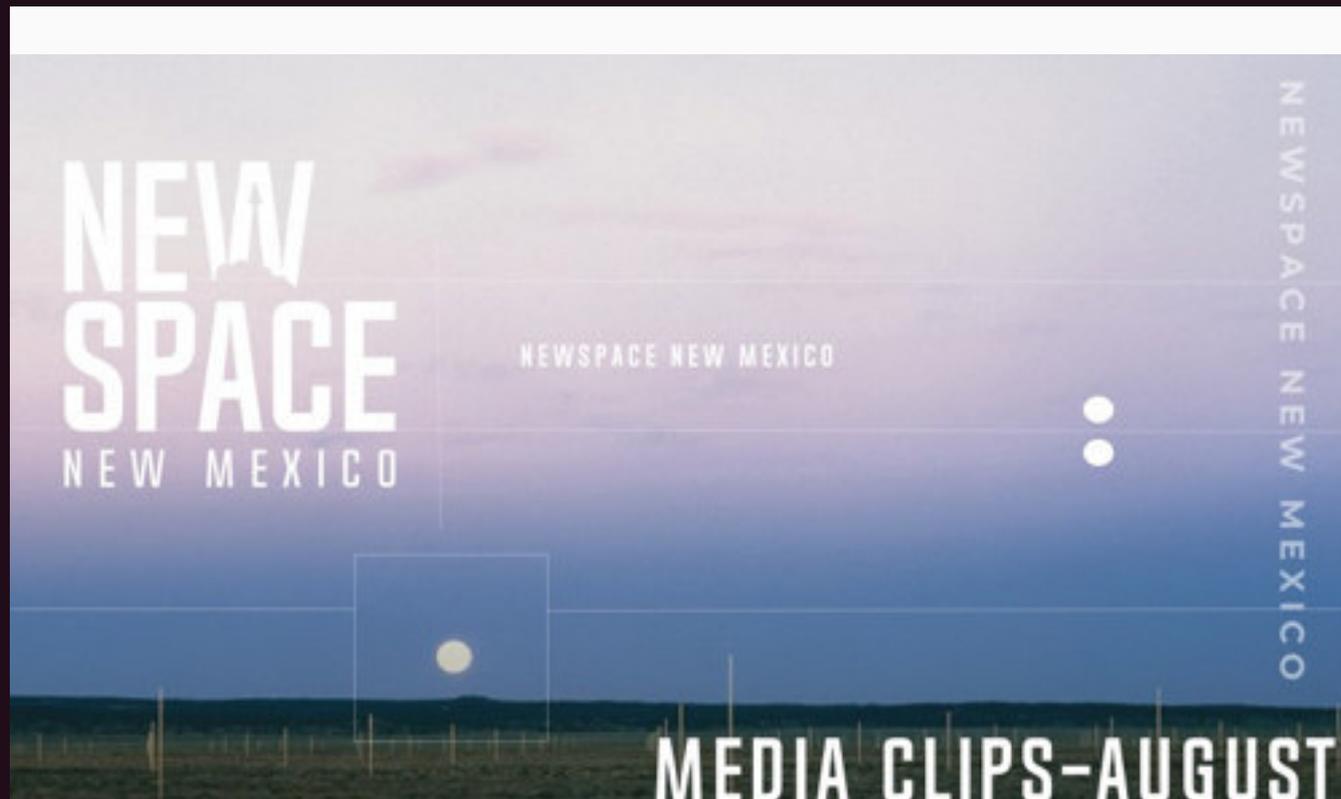
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NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips August 2020

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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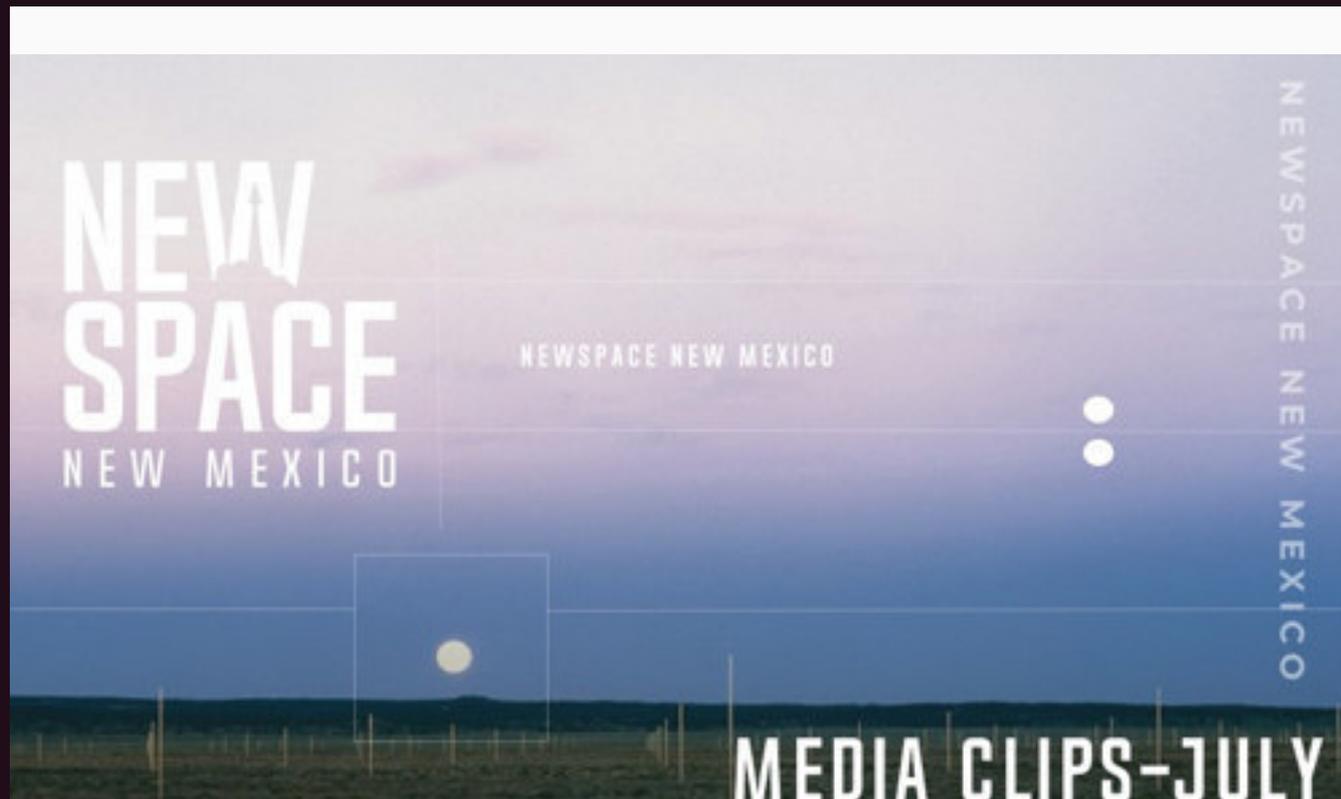
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Kirtland Satellite Facility Construction Underway

[Albuquerque Journal, 1 month ago](#)

A nearly \$6.9 million facility is being built at the Kirtland Air Force Base. This facility is expected to be completed in April 2021 and the U.S Air Force and Space Force both believe that this facility will “give the nation an edge in small satellite technology”. Col.

Eric Felt, the Air Force Research Laboratory’s Space Vehicles Directorate director states “The facility will help us maintain a technology edge over our peer adversaries by accelerating the pace and increasing the capacity of our innovation pipeline”.

Virgin Galactic’s Training Component Adds One More Piece in the Puzzle

[Investor Place, July 2, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic (NYSE:[SPCE](#)) announced June 22 that it had [signed an agreement](#) with NASA’s Johnson Space Center to create a private orbital astronaut readiness program for those interested in purchasing private astronaut missions to the International Space Station. [SPCE stock gained 15% on the news.](#)

Goldfein Describes the Future of the Air Force

[Dayton Daily News, July 4, 2020](#)

On July 1st Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein presented a very positive view of the service’s future stating all the success that has been achieved from each mission. He explained that there has been great progress in working towards high-

priority goals. This includes the improvements in technological innovation and the continued development of the U.S. Space Force.

AFRL Collaborates in Break-through Solar Power Development

[U.S. Air Force News Release, July 6, 2020](#)

“The Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy’s and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory(NREL) in maturing a technology for fabricating high-efficiency solar cells.” They are doing so by using a technology created by a team at NREL called dynamic hydride vapor phase epitaxy, or D-HVPE.

NASA Hits Boeing with 80 Recommendations Before Next Space Test

[RFI, July 7, 2020](#)

NASA has drawn up a list of 80 recommendations that US aerospace giant Boeing will have to address before attempting to refly its Starliner space capsule, following the failure of an uncrewed test last year. The recommendations primarily concern the on-board software, which was the main problem with the flight test last December. The capsule could not be placed in the correct orbit, due to a clock error, and a had to return to Earth after two days instead of docking with the International Space Station as planned.

Disney Exec to Take Virgin Galactic CEO Role

[Albuquerque Journal, July 16, 2020](#)

Michael Colglazier, a Disney executive, has been appointed chief executive officer of Virgin Galactic as the space tourism company prepares for commercial service. Colglazier has most recently been president and managing director of Disney Parks International, Virgin Galactic said Wednesday.

U.S. Space Force Creates Acquisition Command to Build Culture of Innovation

[Space News, July 18, 2020](#)

Gen. John “Jay” Raymond, the leader of the U.S. Space Force, has been emphatic that the success of the service will depend on its technological might. “You will build the Space Force as the first digital service, and lay the foundation of a service that is innovative and can go fast,” Raymond told a group of 86 Air Force Academy graduates who joined the Space Force in April.

VC Investments in Space Rise During the Pandemic

[Wealth Creation, July 24, 2020](#)

The pandemic has so far not substantially impacted investment in the space industry, according to Matthew Carr, the chief trends strategist at the [Oxford Club](#), a financial publisher. “The industry has shown to be extremely resilient in one of the most difficult periods any of us can actually remember,” he said. “I haven’t seen any sort of slowdown from my end.”

State of the Space Industrial Base 2020:

Report Proposes Actions to Strengthen U.S. Space Industry and Military Capabilities

[Space News, July 28, 2020](#)

A report was issued on July 28 by more than 120 experts from the U.S. military, government space agencies, and the private sector “calling for investments in

technology and education to ensure the United States remains the dominant space power.” This can be done by “increasing its support of the commercial space industry and giving the military a bigger role in protecting civilian and private sector space assets.”

Pandemic Poses New Threat to Nascent Space Industry, DOD Officials Warn

[Air Force Mag, July 28, 2020](#)

Economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to undermine the growing U.S. commercial space sector and, potentially, U.S. space superiority, according to a new report by a panel of government experts released on July 28.

Virgin Galactic Shows Off Passenger Spaceship Cabin Interior

[The Post Star, July 28, 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.

New Aerospace Association Vice Chairs Named

[Desert exposure, July 29, 2020](#)

Our CEO Casey Anglada DeRaad and Joe Bullington, Commercialization Manager, Jacobs Technology were appointed Vice Chairs of the Aerospace States Association (ASA) New Mexico Chapter on July 15, 2020 by the ASA New Mexico Chair, Lt. Gov. Howie Morales. “I am excited to have Casey Anglada DeRaad and Joe Bullington join our leadership team for the ASA New Mexico Chapter. I look forward to working with them and partnering with NewSpace New Mexico in advancing aerospace within our state and around the nation,” said Morales. NewSpace New Mexico will look to leverage the state of New Mexico’s many space assets as we enter a new space age.

Virgin Galactic’s Rocket Plane Will Use 16 Cameras to Capture Space Tourists Every Move

[NBC, July 29, 2020](#)

When Virgin Galactic’s [tourism customers](#) take their quarter-million-dollar ride to the edge of space, they’ll strap themselves into custom-made reclining seats and blast into the upper atmosphere before spending a few minutes floating in microgravity — all while an on-board camera system captures their next social media posts.

The Space Economy Has Grown to Over \$420 Billion and is ‘Weathering’ the Current Crisis

[CNBC, July 30, 2020](#)

The global space economy continued to grow last year and reached \$432.8 billion, according to a report by the Space Foundation set to be released on Thursday, although the industry’s past decade of growth is now threatened by the coronavirus pandemic.

Space X is Looking for a 20KM Hop License, Why Rocket Lab Funder Left

[News Breezer, July 31, 2020](#)

Virgin Galactic reveals the look of the interior cabin. Virgin Galactic has released the first pictures of the inside of its VSS unit Spaceship will look like. The design offers seating for up to six passengers, who fly aboard the rocket-propelled spacecraft, are at a height of over 80 km and experience weightlessness for a few minutes. The

company is planning one or two more engine-powered tests, followed by final test flights from New Mexico before launching a full commercial passenger service.



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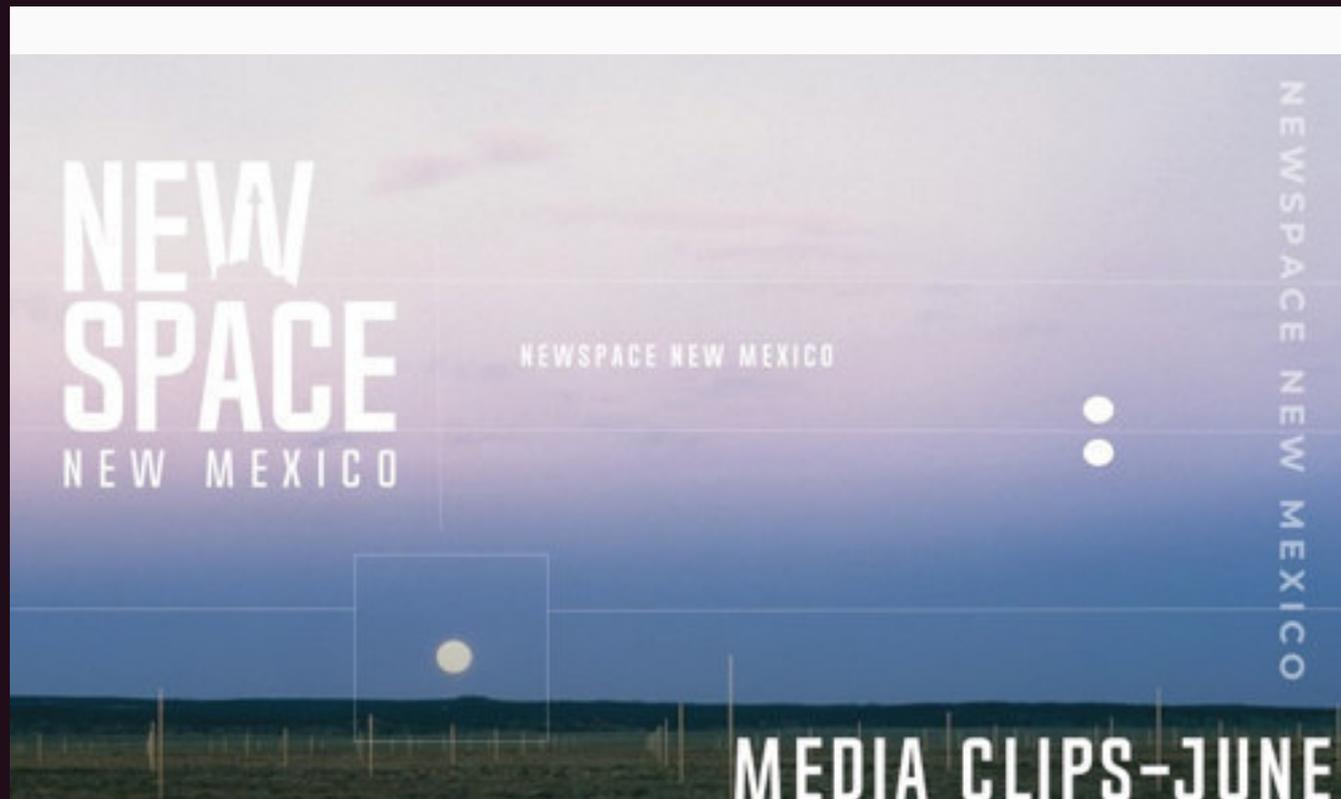
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AFRL rolls-out new rapid contract award tool for space technology research

[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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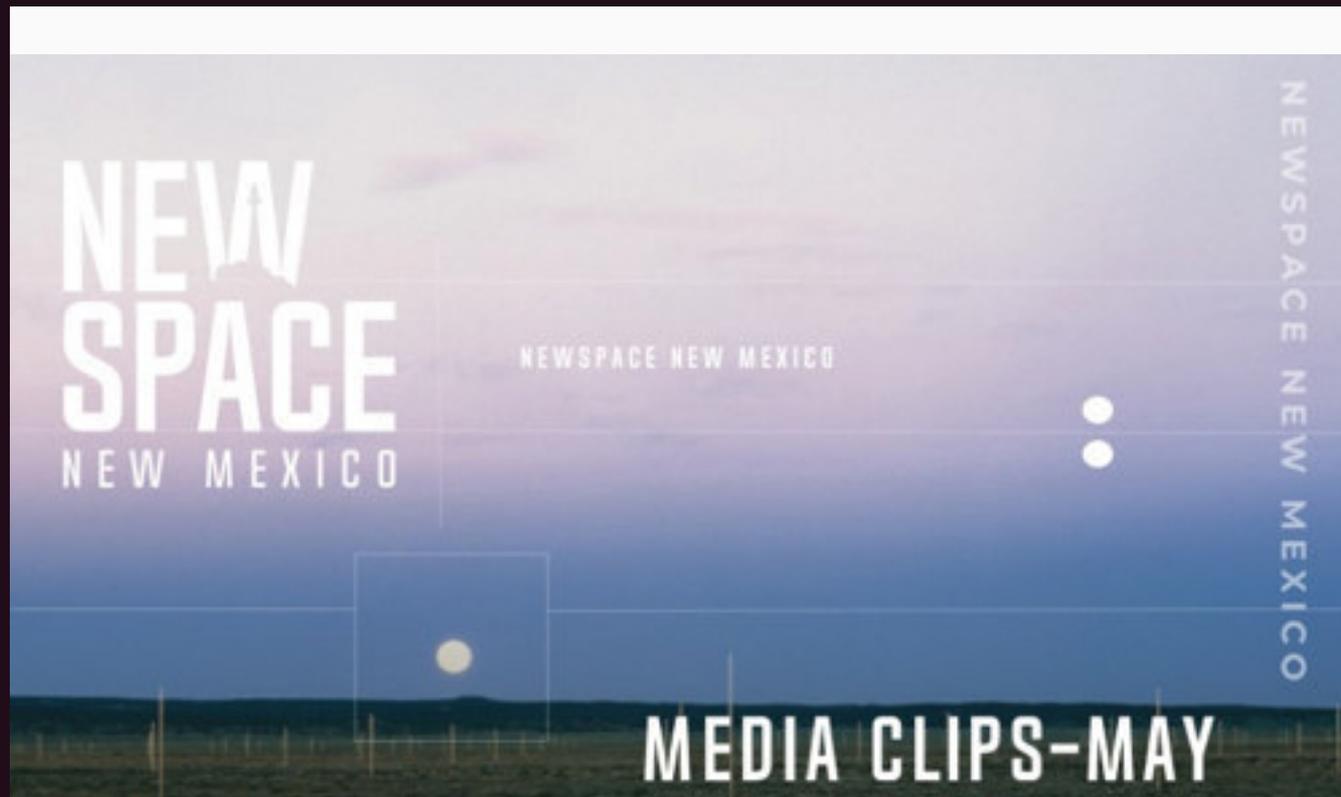
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NewSpace New Mexico Media Clips May 2020

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!

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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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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