

THE NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY CHEERS SPACEX'S STARSHIP LAUNCH TEST

Partially Successful Test Flight is a First Step Toward Transforming Human Spaceflight

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA, USA, April 20, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [National Space Society](#) congratulates SpaceX on a partially successful test flight of its new Starship/Super Heavy reusable rocket, the most powerful ever launched.

Shortly after 8 a.m. Central Time on April 20, the enormous booster lifted off from SpaceX's Starbase facility in Boca Chica, Texas. While intended for a roughly 90-minute orbital minute flight, the test ended prematurely as the vehicle exploded four minutes after launch, apparently losing structural integrity during its flip maneuver which is intended to send the first stage back toward the launch facility (for this flight, it was intended to descend into the ocean). Starship/Super Heavy was launched without a crew and flew its short mission robotically.



Launch of today's partially successful test flight of Starship. Credit: SpaceX

“

Virtually every aspect of Starship is a technology first ... We look forward to SpaceX's next test flight for the Starship system.”

Dale Skran, NSS COO

Dale Skran, NSS COO said, “It is hard to exaggerate the significance of the first flight test of the SpaceX Starship/Super Heavy. Unlike the Falcon 9, which arguably represents the refinement and perfection of previously demonstrated technology, virtually every aspect of Starship is a technology first. And the most significant first surely lies in the planned total reusability of the Starship/Super Heavy system. While we wish it had been

completely successful, the fact that the vehicle cleared the launch tower and completed the early stages of its flight is a major milestone. We look forward to SpaceX's next test flight for the Starship system, which will ultimately be the first truly fully reusable launch vehicle.”

The Starship system was originally conceived as early as 2005 when SpaceX founder Elon Musk spoke of an enormous rocket that would dwarf NASA's Saturn V of the 1960s, with far more lifting power and the ability to be completely reusable. Over the years, the design parameters changed multiple times, as did the name of the mammoth spacecraft, but the goals remained the same: routine and affordable access to space, and ultimately, the human settlement of Mars.

Starship is the upper stage and stands 164 feet tall, and the Super Heavy Booster is 226 feet tall, with a combined height of 390 feet, dwarfing the Apollo program's Saturn V Moon rocket that stood at 363 feet. With a liftoff thrust of almost 17 million pounds, it will be capable of lifting 150 tons to low-Earth orbit and, with orbital refueling from the proposed Starship refueling tanker, will be able to deliver almost that much to the Moon. A lunar derivative of Starship has been chosen by NASA to land the first crew to return to the Moon since 1972 via the Artemis III flight, scheduled for some time after 2025.

"It is not too much to say that today is a step toward the dawn of the real age of space, the age in which the resources of space will richly benefit all of humanity. Once this launch system is successful, nothing will be the same," opined Isaac Arthur, NSS President.

"Although intended to enable the construction of the first city on Mars, and under contract to NASA to return American astronauts to the lunar surface, the refuelable Starship promises bigger orbital telescopes and more capable planetary probes than anything yet conceived," added Karlton Johnson, Chairman of the NSS Board of Governors. "We congratulate SpaceX on their partially successful launch attempt today."

Starship is designed to be rapidly reusable and SpaceX intends to build many of them quickly and affordably, with launch costs significantly less than traditional rockets and far below the cost of NASA's Space Launch System. Musk's goal is to provide a ready and affordable means to move people and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon, and beyond in a routine manner.

If successful in scale, the Starship is a key component to achieving the NSS's [Roadmap to Space Settlement](#) and will revolutionize spaceflight and the development of human outposts and settlements in orbit, on the Moon, and ultimately on Mars, Musk's long-term goal. Further test flights will depart from Texas in short order, with operational launches from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where the NSS has its headquarters.

The National Space Society was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute and the L5 Society. The NSS is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration, development, and settlement. To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at space.nss.org.

Rod Pyle

National Space Society

+1 626-399-4440

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/629046431>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.