

THE NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY CONGRATULATES BLUE ORIGIN ON THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT OF NEW GLENN

*The Heavy Lift Reusable Rocket Will Open
New Frontiers and Provide Healthy
Competition*

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL, UNITED STATES, January 17, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Space Society sends heartfelt congratulations to Blue Origin, its employees and leaders, and to founder Jeff Bezos, on the successful first flight of the New Glenn launch vehicle. The heavy lift rocket launched at 2:05 am Eastern Time on January 16 and achieved its primary goal of reaching orbit with its upper stage. While the first stage did not land on the seagoing recovery barge as hoped, this was a stretch goal for the reusable rocket.



New Glenn at its inaugural liftoff. Credit: Blue Origin

“Blue Origin’s New Glenn reaching orbit on its first attempt represents a huge milestone for the company,” said Dale Skran, NSS COO and SVP. “It’s great to see Blue making solid progress toward offering competition to SpaceX and providing customers with additional reusable vehicles capable of carrying large payloads into space. Overall, the mission was quite successful for an inaugural launch.”

Bezos founded Blue Origin in 2000 and has worked continuously to perfect a series of clean-sheet powerful rocket engines, launch vehicles, and spacecraft. The company’s reusable New Shepard suborbital rocket has flown 28 times with only one anomaly during an uncrewed flight, from which the company quickly recovered. Forty-three people have safely flown aboard the New Shepard, with some conducting important microgravity research.

Blue Origin has also pioneered new rocket engine designs, including the powerful BE-4 methane-fueled, reusable powerplant. Seven of these large engines power the New Glenn, and they have also been sold to a Blue Origin competitor, United Launch Alliance, for use on their new Vulcan



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*Karlton Johnson, NSS CEO and
Chairman of the Board of
Governors*

rocket. Notably, this engine, like the booster itself, is reusable—a critical step toward affordable access to Earth orbit and beyond.

Besides the New Glenn rocket, a prototype of the company's Blue Ring spacecraft platform was flown. Future iterations of Blue Ring will include the ability to refuel other spacecraft, provide a platform for other satellites, and act as a space tug to move smaller spacecraft from one orbit to another—and ultimately to the Moon and beyond.

"Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket is a potential game changer," said Karlton Johnson, CEO of the NSS. "With

eventual rapid reusability, New Glenn will become part of the fleet of increasingly affordable launchers. This and the flexible options offered by Blue Ring will change how we use space to improve life on Earth."

With the New Glenn, Blue Origin provides competition for SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets and ULA's Vulcan rocket, which is critical to affordable and frequent access to space. The NSS welcomes Blue Origin into the small but very successful family of commercial launch providers.

The New Glenn is a key component of Jeff Bezos' vision for the development of space, one that resonates strongly with NSS key values—to settle cislunar space with people working and living in thriving, off-world communities. Bezos was the recipient of the NSS's [Gerard K. O'Neill Memorial Award for Space Settlement Advocacy](#) in recognition of his efforts to advance space settlement, joining other luminaries such as physicist Freeman Dyson and Apollo astronaut Harrison Schmitt.

That National Space Society also thanks Blue Origin's educational organization, Club for the Future. Their support enables the NSS to impact thousands of students and further support multiple organizations through direct STEM grants. The NSS also has direct [student-focused competitions and educational programs](#).

ABOUT THE NSS

The National Space Society is the preeminent non-partisan citizen's voice on space exploration, development, and settlement, reaching millions through its membership, numerous outreach channels, and media activities. The organization was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute and the L5 Society. To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at nss.org.

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