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# Alpha Block 2 Set for Summer Launch as Falcon Boosters Land Successfully

## Description

The Falcon 9 team won a special award for its work's impact on humanity. Dan Dumbacher, who leads the Neil Armstrong Space Prize selection committee, said their achievements are clear and visible.

Nayuta Space, a Chinese commercial launch company, finished two funding rounds to develop its Xuanniao-R rocket. This rocket will be 70 meters long and use a new method for landing. It aims to test its rocket in 2027, but there are challenges. The new landing method requires extra structures, making it heavier and more complex. The time frame for the test flight may be too ambitious.

SpaceX launched another Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. This mission successfully put more Starlink v2-mini satellites into orbit. It marked the 611th recovery of a Falcon booster, setting a record of 268 consecutive successful booster landings. This is important because SpaceX wants to use this technology for future human landings on Earth.

On Thursday, SpaceX tested the Super Heavy booster for its Starship vehicle. The 15-second test looked promising. This is an essential step to prepare the newest version of Starship, with a possible launch in mid-May.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **impact** //ˈɪmpækt// (noun): strong effect on people or things
2. **achievements** //əˈtʃɪvmənts// (noun): things someone has done well after hard work
3. **funding** //ˈfʌndɪŋ// (noun): money provided for a project or company
4. **method** //ˈmɛθəd// (noun): a planned way to do something
5. **recovery** //rɪˈkʌvəri// (noun): getting something back after use or loss
6. **consecutive** //kənˈsekjətɪv// (adjective): happening one after another without break

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice



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1. What special award did the Falcon 9 team win?
    - Option: Nobel Prize
    - Option: Neil Armstrong Space Prize
    - Option: Oscar Award
    - Option: Grammy Award
  2. Who leads the Neil Armstrong Space Prize selection committee?
    - Option: Elon Musk
    - Option: Dan Dumbacher
    - Option: Ratan Tata
    - Option: Jeff Bezos
  3. How long is the Xuanniao-R rocket expected to be?
    - Option: 50 meters
    - Option: 60 meters
    - Option: 70 meters
    - Option: 80 meters
  4. What was launched by SpaceX from Vandenberg Space Force Base?
    - Option: Falcon Heavy
    - Option: Starship
    - Option: Falcon 9
    - Option: Delta IV
  5. How many consecutive successful booster landings did SpaceX achieve?
    - Option: 250
    - Option: 268
    - Option: 300
    - Option: 400
  6. What significant test did SpaceX conduct for its Starship vehicle?
    - Option: Engine test
    - Option: Fuel test
    - Option: Super Heavy booster test
    - Option: Launch pad test

**True-False**



7. The Falcon 9 team won a special award for its work's impact on technology.
8. Nayuta Space is a Chinese commercial launch company.
9. The Xuanniao-R rocket will test its landing method in 2025.
10. SpaceX's Falcon 9 successfully put Starlink v2-mini satellites into orbit.
11. The Super Heavy booster test lasted 30 seconds.
12. The test flight time frame for the Xuanniao-R rocket is considered ambitious.

### Gap-Fill

13. The Falcon 9 team won a special award for its work's impact on \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Nayuta Space completed two funding rounds to develop its Xuanniao-R rocket, which will be \_\_\_\_\_ meters long.
15. SpaceX launched another Falcon 9 rocket, marking the \_\_\_\_\_ recovery of a Falcon booster.
16. The new landing method for the Xuanniao-R rocket requires extra structures, making it more \_\_\_\_\_.
17. The Super Heavy booster test for the Starship vehicle lasted \_\_\_\_\_ seconds.
18. SpaceX aims for a possible launch of the newest version of Starship in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Neil Armstrong Space Prize 2. Dan Dumbacher 3. 70 meters 4. Falcon 9 5. 268 6. Super Heavy booster test

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. humanity 14. 70 15. 611th 16. complex 17. 15 18. mid-May

### CATEGORY



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