



NASA to Host Blue Origin Rockets for Testing After Launch Pad Damage

Description

Blue Origin recently experienced a setback when its New Glenn rocket blew up its launchpad. This incident is significant because it was the only launchpad capable of supporting this type of rocket. NASA relies on Blue Origin for missions to send astronauts back to the Moon, so the agency has stepped in to assist. NASA will modify its B-2 testing pad at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi to accommodate the New Glenn's upper stage. Although nothing can launch from there, testing can resume.

The Stennis Space Center has a rich history. It tested the Saturn V rocket, which took astronauts to the Moon during the Apollo program. More recently, it was used for the Space Launch System, which helped send Artemis II astronauts around the Moon. This will be the first time a private rocket, like the New Glenn, uses this site. NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman noted that collaborating with private companies is crucial for success in space.

Blue Origin has received several contracts from NASA and is preparing to help build a lunar colony. To achieve this, Blue Origin must rebuild its launchpad for the New Glenn. If all goes well, the rocket may fly again by the end of the year.

Vocabulary List:

1. **setback** //ˈset,bæk// (noun): a problem that causes delay or difficulty
2. **launchpad** //ˈlɒntʃ,pæd// (noun): a site where rockets begin their flight
3. **accommodate** //əˈkʌmə,deɪt// (verb): to make something fit or work there
4. **resume** //rɪˈzʊm// (verb): to begin again after a stop
5. **collaborating** //kəˈlæbə,reɪtɪŋ// (verb): working together with others to achieve something
6. **colony** //ˈkɒləni// (noun): a group of people living in a new area

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What recent incident occurred with Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket?

Option: It successfully launched

Option: It blew up its launchpad



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- Option: It was grounded indefinitely
 - Option: It was repurposed for another mission

2. What does NASA rely on Blue Origin for?

- Option: Sending satellites into orbit
- Option: Missions to send astronauts back to the Moon
- Option: Testing new rocket technologies
- Option: Building space habitats

3. Which testing pad is NASA modifying for the New Glenn's upper stage?

- Option: B-2 testing pad
- Option: A-1 launchpad
- Option: LC-39A
- Option: Cape Canaveral

4. What significant event did the Stennis Space Center previously conduct?

- Option: Tested the Mars Rover
- Option: Tested the Saturn V rocket
- Option: Launched the first satellite
- Option: Developed space exploration technology

5. Whose mission was associated with the Space Launch System?

- Option: Apollo program
- Option: Artemis II
- Option: Gemini program
- Option: Mercury project

6. What does Blue Origin need to do to help build a lunar colony?

- Option: Develop a new rocket
- Option: Rebuild its launchpad for the New Glenn
- Option: Collaborate with SpaceX
- Option: Secure more funding

True-False

7. The New Glenn rocket successfully launched without any issues.

8. NASA is modifying a testing pad in Texas for the New Glenn rocket.



9. The Stennis Space Center has a history of testing rockets.
10. Blue Origin has never received contracts from NASA.
11. The New Glenn rocket is the first private rocket to use the Stennis Space Center.
12. NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman believes collaboration with private companies is important.

Gap-Fill

13. Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket blew up its launchpad at _____.
14. NASA is modifying the B-2 testing pad at the Stennis Space Center in _____.
15. The Stennis Space Center was used to test the _____ rocket during the Apollo program.
16. Collaborating with private companies is crucial for success in _____.
17. Blue Origin must rebuild its launchpad for the _____.
18. If all goes well, the New Glenn rocket may fly again by the end of _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. It blew up its launchpad 2. Missions to send astronauts back to the Moon 3. B-2 testing pad 4. Tested the Saturn V rocket 5. Artemis II 6. Rebuild its launchpad for the New Glenn

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

Gap-Fill: 13. Blue Origin 14. Mississippi 15. Saturn V 16. space 17. New Glenn 18. the year

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

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Date Created

2026/08/01

Author

aimeeyoung99

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