



NASA's Moon Mission Reliant on SpaceX After Blue Origin Blast

Description

SpaceX is poised for a record-setting initial public offering (IPO) while its competitor, Blue Origin, faced a major setback when its New Glenn rocket exploded during a test in Cape Canaveral. This incident not only impacts Blue Origin's plans but also strengthens SpaceX's position in NASA's lunar exploration efforts.

On Thursday, Blue Origin conducted an engine-firing test when the New Glenn rocket exploded. This rocket was intended to launch satellites and serve NASA's missions, including delivering astronauts to the moon's surface. SpaceX is also competing for NASA's lunar contracts, potentially becoming the only feasible option given recent developments.

This situation reveals the complexities involved in lunar missions, which require multiple contractors and technologies. While NASA successfully completed an astronaut mission around the moon last month using Lockheed Martin's Orion capsule and Boeing's Space Launch System, a separate spacecraft is essential for landing on the moon.

Next year, NASA plans to launch the Artemis III mission, which involves sending astronauts into Earth's orbit. During this mission, the Orion capsule is expected to dock with either SpaceX's or Blue Origin's lunar lander. However, with the New Glenn rocket now grounded, questions arise about Blue Origin's ability to meet upcoming deadlines.

Experts suggest that Blue Origin's delays may push NASA to rely solely on SpaceX for the Artemis III mission. If SpaceX cannot deliver its Starship lunar variant on time, NASA might delay the mission by a year, affecting future lunar exploration.

While Blue Origin tries to recover, SpaceX continues to develop its Starship and has significant backing, as seen by its upcoming IPO aimed at raising up to \$75 billion.

Vocabulary List:

1. **poised** //pɔɪzd// (adjective): ready and likely to begin or happen soon
2. **setback** //ˈset,bæk// (noun): a problem that delays progress or plans
3. **feasible** //ˈfiːzəbəl// (adjective): possible to do; likely to work or succeed
4. **complexities** //kəmˈpleksətɪz// (noun): many difficult parts that are hard to understand
5. **grounded** //ˈgraʊndɪd// (adjective): not allowed to fly or operate at this time
6. **backing** //ˈbækɪŋ// (noun): help or money given to support someone or something



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What setback did Blue Origin face during a test?

- Option: The New Glenn rocket exploded
- Option: The Orion capsule malfunctioned
- Option: An astronaut was injured
- Option: NASA canceled the mission

2. What is the purpose of the New Glenn rocket?

- Option: To deliver astronauts to the moon
- Option: To launch satellites
- Option: To transport cargo to Mars
- Option: To conduct Earth observation

3. Which company's rocket is SpaceX competing with for NASA's lunar contracts?

- Option: Northrop Grumman
- Option: Lockheed Martin
- Option: Blue Origin
- Option: Boeing

4. What was the mission name for NASA's planned launch next year?

- Option: Apollo 11
- Option: Artemis III
- Option: Gemini 10
- Option: Orion IX

5. How much funding is SpaceX aiming to raise in its IPO?

- Option: \$50 billion
- Option: \$75 billion
- Option: \$100 billion
- Option: \$25 billion

6. Which rocket system was successfully used by NASA for an astronaut mission around the moon last month?



- Option: Falcon Heavy
- Option: New Glenn
- Option: Orion capsule
- Option: Starship

True-False

7. Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket was successfully launched during the test.
8. SpaceX has significant backing for its projects.
9. NASA is planning to send astronauts to Mars with the Artemis III mission.
10. Experts are concerned that Blue Origin's delays may favor SpaceX in upcoming NASA missions.
11. Lockheed Martin's Orion capsule was used successfully in a lunar mission last month.
12. SpaceX's IPO is aimed at raising \$50 billion.

Gap-Fill

13. The New Glenn rocket exploded during an engine-firing test at _____.
14. NASA's Artemis III mission involves sending astronauts into _____ orbit.
15. SpaceX is developing its _____ lunar variant to deliver astronauts to the moon.
16. Blue Origin's delays may force NASA to rely solely on _____ for future missions.
17. NASA completed an astronaut mission around the moon using Lockheed Martin's Orion capsule and _____'s Space Launch System.
18. The explosion of the New Glenn rocket impacts Blue Origin's _____ plans.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. The New Glenn rocket exploded 2. To launch satellites 3. Blue Origin 4. Artemis III 5. \$75 billion 6. Orion capsule

True-False: 7. False



8. True 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. Cape Canaveral 14. Earth's 15. Starship 16. SpaceX 17. Boeing 18. launch

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What does liquidity refer to in finance?

- Option: The ability to meet short-term obligations
- Option: The amount of cash in circulation
- Option: The speed of market transactions
- Option: The total assets owned

2. What is the term for the return of an investor's principal in a financial product?

- Option: Yield
- Option: Redemption
- Option: Liquidation
- Option: Maturity

3. What is a significant change in form or appearance called?

- Option: Adjustments
- Option: Gradual change
- Option: Transformation
- Option: Modification

4. What does it mean if a borrower defaults?

- Option: They pay back on time
- Option: They negotiate new terms
- Option: They fail to fulfill a loan obligation
- Option: They refinance their loan

5. What are limitations on activities or behaviors often referred to as?

- Option: Guidelines
- Option: Rules
- Option: Restrictions
- Option: Terms

6. What do we call the state of being intricate or complicated?

- Option: Simple structures
- Option: Complexities
- Option: Straightforwardness



Option: Basic concepts

7. What word describes a reversal or check in progress?

Option: Advancement

Option: Improvement

Option: Setback

Option: Success

8. What term refers to a deficit or lack of something?

Option: Excess

Option: Surplus

Option: Shortfall

Option: Abundance

9. What does it mean if progress is obstructed?

Option: Facilitated

Option: Hindered

Option: Accelerated

Option: Enhanced

10. What does it mean if a person is realistic and reasonable?

Option: Idealistic

Option: Grounded

Option: Ambitious

Option: Unrealistic

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. In finance, the return on investment is often referred to as _____ on an asset.

12. The maximum limit on an investment fund is known as the _____.

13. Economic _____ can lead to market fears and reduced investor confidence.

14. The _____ of the industry requires adapting to new technologies and practices.

15. The project received financial _____ from several major investors.

16. The company's _____ was reduced due to budget cuts and layoffs.

17. Many workers were _____ during the economic downturn.



18. To improve efficiency, businesses often seek to _____ their processes.

19. To reduce manual labor, companies may choose to _____ certain tasks.

20. Legal decisions are often based on previous _____ set by earlier cases.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The company's profits have been soaring due to increasing demand.
22. The plan is considered feasible with the resources we have.
23. The night sky was filled with a constellation of sparkling stars.
24. The field was scorched by the intense summer heat.
25. He dug a deep trench to lay the foundation for the fence.
26. Timing is crucial when it comes to launching a new product.
27. The team is poised for success with their innovative approach.
28. They experienced a significant setback during their project timeline.
29. The artist attributed his inspiration to nature and personal experiences.
30. Her grounded perspective helped the team stay focused on their goals.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. The ability to meet short-term obligations 2. Redemption 3. Transformation 4. They fail to fulfill a loan obligation 5. Restrictions 6. Complexities 7. Setback 8. Shortfall 9. Hindered 10. Grounded

Gap-Fill: 11. yields 12. cap 13. instability 14. transformation 15. backing 16. workforce 17. laid off 18. streamline 19. automate 20. precedents

Matching sentence: 1. soaring 2. feasible 3. constellation 4. scorched 5. trench 6. crucial 7. poised 8. setback 9. attributed 10. grounded

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

POST TAG



1. blue origin
2. C1
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 5
6. moon exploration
7. rocket explosion

Tags

1. blue origin
2. C1
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 5
6. moon exploration
7. rocket explosion

Date Created

2026/05/31

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM