



SpaceX to Launch First Starship V3 Megarocket on May 21

Description

SpaceX's Starship V3 megarocket is set for its inaugural flight today from the company's Starbase test site in South Texas. This launch is significant as it directly supports NASA's Artemis programme, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon.

The Starship V3 launch, part of the twelfth test series, replicates earlier missions with a suborbital flight culminating in controlled ocean splashdowns of both the Super Heavy booster and the Ship upper stage. However, the V3 version introduces enhancements, leading SpaceX to expect considerable advancements in performance.

Standing at 408 feet (124 meters), the enhanced V3 is the most powerful Starship yet, featuring a revamped V3 Raptor engine system, comprising 33 engines on Super Heavy and six on Ship. Notable design modifications include a new fueling transfer tube, optimised for simultaneous engine ignition, and a streamlined structure that improves recovery capabilities.

The Ship's propulsion systems have undergone a complete redesign, allowing for more efficient manoeuvring and improved fuel storage. Notably, the deployment mechanism for payloads has been upgraded to enable quicker ejection of Starlink satellites, with the current flight deploying 20 dummy satellites as well as two equipped with cameras for heat shield analysis.

Should today's flight succeed, the V3 will continue toward future Artemis missions, where it is expected to land astronauts on the Moon by late 2028. However, before that can happen, Starship must complete key milestones, including reaching Earth orbit, demonstrating in-space refueling, and ensuring the presence of life-support systems.

Any failure on this inaugural flight might lead to considerable delays, impacting SpaceX's overall development timeline and potentially its upcoming initial public offering, valued at approximately \$1.75 trillion. Despite potential pressures, CEO Elon Musk remains confident, noting that production plans for additional vehicles are robust.

Vocabulary List:

1. **inaugural** //ɪˈnɔːɡəərəl// (adjective): the first in a series or event
2. **suborbital** //sʌbˈɔːrbɪtəl// (adjective): does not go all the way around Earth
3. **culminating** //ˈkʌlmɪneɪtɪŋ// (verb): reaching the final point or result
4. **propulsion** //prəˈpʌlʃən// (noun): the force that makes a vehicle move
5. **payloads** //ˈpeɪləʊdz// (noun): goods or equipment carried by a vehicle
6. **milestones** //ˈmaɪlstəʊnz// (noun): important steps in a plan or process



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the main purpose of the Starship V3 launch?
Option: Testing the spacecraft for Mars missions
Option: Supporting NASA's Artemis programme
Option: Developing new technology for land travel
Option: Testing transportation for space tourism
2. How many engines does the Super Heavy booster have?
Option: 30
Option: 32
Option: 33
Option: 28
3. What enhancements does the V3 version of Starship introduce?
Option: More engines
Option: New design modifications
Option: Increased size
Option: Improved fuel storage
4. How tall is the Starship V3?
Option: 400 feet
Option: 408 feet
Option: 450 feet
Option: 420 feet
5. How many dummy satellites is the current flight deploying?
Option: 15
Option: 10
Option: 20
Option: 25
6. What was the estimated value of SpaceX's upcoming initial public offering?
Option: \$1 trillion



- Option: \$1.5 trillion
- Option: \$1.75 trillion
- Option: \$2 trillion

True-False

- 7. SpaceX's Starship V3 is the first version of the Starship.
- 8. The Starship V3 will support NASA's Artemis programme.
- 9. Elon Musk is uncertain about the production plans for additional vehicles.
- 10. The V3 version has fewer engines than its predecessors.
- 11. The flight is expected to land astronauts on Mars by late 2028.
- 12. The propulsion systems of the Ship have been completely redesigned.

Gap-Fill

- 13. The Starship V3 megarocket is set for its inaugural flight today from the company's Starbase test site in South _____ .
- 14. The enhanced V3 is the most powerful Starship yet, featuring a revamped V3 Raptor engine system, comprising 33 engines on Super Heavy and _____ on Ship.
- 15. The deployment mechanism for payloads has been upgraded to enable quicker ejection of _____ satellites.
- 16. If today's flight fails, it might lead to considerable _____ in SpaceX's overall development timeline.



17. Before landing astronauts on the Moon by late 2028, Starship must complete key

_____ .

18. The V3 version introduces enhancements, leading SpaceX to expect considerable advancements in

_____ .

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Supporting NASA's Artemis programme 2. 33 3. New design modifications 4. 408 feet 5. 20 6. \$1.75 trillion

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

Gap-Fill: 13. Texas 14. six 15. Starlink 16. delays 17. milestones 18. performance

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What term describes the first event of a particular kind?

Option: Culminating

Option: Inaugural

Option: Annualised

Option: Beneficiaries

2. What type of flight reaches the edge of space but does not go into orbit?

Option: Suborbital

Option: Orbital

Option: Geopolitical

Option: Inflation

3. Which term refers to the act of driving or pushing something forward?

Option: Refiners

Option: Propulsion

Option: Collaterals

Option: Blockade

4. What do we call significant events or achievements that mark progress?

Option: Milestones



- Option: Shortages
- Option: Disruptions
- Option: Impairment

5. What term describes a lack of sufficient supply of something?

- Option: Shortages
- Option: Refiners
- Option: Inflation
- Option: Indices

6. Which term refers to a barrier used to prevent access to an area?

- Option: Surging
- Option: Milestones
- Option: Blockade
- Option: Culminating

7. What term describes the measure of a fluid's resistance to flow?

- Option: Viscosity
- Option: Exposure
- Option: Adjustment
- Option: Insolvency

8. What do we call an asset pledged as security for a loan?

- Option: Collateral
- Option: Beneficiaries
- Option: Discrepancy
- Option: Scrutiny

9. What term refers to the condition of being in contact with a harmful substance?

- Option: Discrepancy
- Option: Surging
- Option: Exposure
- Option: Culminating

10. What economic term refers to the rate of increase in prices?

- Option: Inflation
- Option: Indices
- Option: Annualised
- Option: Adjustment

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



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11. The company's _____ event marked its entry into the tech industry.
 12. The spacecraft successfully completed its _____ flight testing.
 13. The new engine design focuses on improving _____ efficiency.
 14. Reaching these _____ is crucial for the project's success.
 15. The _____ of essential goods led to increased prices and demand.
 16. The naval _____ prevented any ships from entering the harbor.
 17. The _____ of the liquid affected its flow through the pipes.
 18. She provided her property as _____ for the loan.
 19. His _____ to the virus has raised concerns among health officials.
 20. The rising _____ has become a major concern for economists.

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



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| 21. The inaugural flight took place in front of a large crowd eager to witness history. |
| 22. The suborbital test flight provided valuable data for future missions. |
| 23. Advancements in propulsion technology can significantly reduce travel time. |
| 24. The project has reached several important milestones ahead of schedule. |
| 25. The shortages of raw materials have led to production delays across industries. |
| 26. The blockade resulted in a significant decrease in trade activity. |
| 27. The viscosity of the paint affects how easily it can be applied. |
| 28. Using valuable assets as collateral can help secure a loan. |
| 29. Long-term exposure to pollutants can have serious health effects. |
| 30. Inflation rates can influence economic policies and interest rates. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Inaugural 2. Suborbital 3. Propulsion 4. Milestones 5. Shortages 6. Blockade 7. Viscosity 8. Collateral 9. Exposure 10. Inflation

Gap-Fill: 11. inaugural 12. suborbital 13. propulsion 14. milestones 15. shortages 16. blockade 17. viscosity 18. collateral 19. exposure 20. inflation

Matching sentence: 1. inaugural 2. suborbital 3. propulsion 4. milestones 5. shortages 6. blockade 7. viscosity 8. collateral 9. exposure 10. inflation

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