
Stratolaunch hails test of hypersonic vehicle – DW – 03/10/2024

Description

Stratolaunch, a privately owned company dedicated to advancing aerospace technology, jubilantly announced in a statement following the close of proceedings on Saturday that their experimental hypersonic vehicle, fondly named "Talon-A," demonstrated a successful trial flight performance, vividly depicted in a succinct video they released showcasing the pioneering vehicle's release and the onset of its monumental flight.

"This day marks a remarkable milestone for the indefatigable Stratolaunch team. The unyielding determination each member exhibited in striving towards this accomplishment fills me with immeasurable pride," voiced company's President Zachary Krevor in his exuberant public address.

The company elaborated that the quintessential goal of Saturday's groundbreaking flight revolved around the paramount objectives of achieving a secure air-launch release of their TA-1 vehicle, meticulously executing engine ignition, proficiently managing acceleration, ensuring a sustained ascent in altitude, and finally, culminating in a controlled landing on the water's surface.

Stratolaunch unveiled a captivating video that deftly captured the riveting initial seconds of the unprecedented test that was staged off the picturesque coast of California. The colossal, uniquely designed twin-fuselaged Roc carrier aircraft, boasting an impressive array of six engines, adeptly released the Talon from a mounting fixed at the center of its expansive wingspan. The vehicle then made a brief, precipitous drop before its engine roared to life, propelling it forward and initiating its ambitious journey.

Hypersonic Weaponry and Defensive Systems: The Next Frontier

The captivating flight drew to a close with the successful execution of a controlled water landing. Although the TA-1 vehicle wasn't designed to be reused, Stratolaunch emphasized that future iterations of the model, now in the developmental stages, will be tailored for reuse and facilitated to accommodate runway landings.

Stratolaunch operates out of the Mojave desert in California, visible in this image from its 2017 unveiling of its launch carrier

Image: April Keller/AFP

"While I can't disclose the exact altitude reached or the specific velocity at which TA-1 travelled," Krevor conveyed, "I can inform you that we achieved high supersonic speeds nearing Mach 5 and garnered a substantial amount of data, an accomplishment invaluable to our esteemed clients."

[Defence contractors](#) in [various nations](#) aim to leverage the development of novel hypersonic weapons as well as pioneering systems designed to pinpoint and defend against them.

Stratolaunch anticipates seeing the culmination of the TA-1 vehicle's research and development process this year, and has already embarked on developing two-successor models.



Hypersonic weapons are generally acknowledged as those capable of traversing Earth's upper atmosphere at more than five times the speed of sound, equating to approximately Mach 5 or roughly 1.7 kilometers – just over 1 mile – per second.

Sources: AP, Reuters

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Advancing** // (verb): Moving forward or making progress.
2. **Jubilantly** // (adverb): In an extremely joyful or celebratory manner.
3. **Pioneering** // (adjective): Involving new ideas, methods, or products that represent a significant change or improvement.
4. **Expedition** // (noun): A journey or voyage undertaken for a specific purpose.
5. **Unyielding** // (adjective): Resolute or determined in purpose or opinion.
6. **Invaluable** // (adjective): Extremely useful or valuable; indispensable.

Vocabulary quizzes



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

1. Which word means showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks?
Option: Audacious
Option: Diminution
Option: Assuage
Option: Rebuff

2. Which term refers to the action of investing money back into a project or business?
Option: Anticipated
Option: Tainted
Option: Reinvestment
Option: Revelation

3. A person who exposes secretive information is known as a:
Option: Impetus
Option: Recalibration
Option: Whistleblower
Option: Advancing

4. Which term describes someone who is willing to take risks in order to start new businesses?
Option: Jubilantly
Option: Pioneering
Option: Entrepreneurial
Option: Expedition

5. Which word means refusing to give in or compromise?
Option: Unyielding
Option: Invaluable
Option: Viral
Option: Exponentiate

6. What term describes rapid growth or reproduction of something?
Option: Ascension
Option: Global dominance
Option: Subtle war
Option: Proliferate

7. Which word means a sudden and large increase in something?
Option: Meticulously strategizing
Option: Raw materials
Option: Subsidies



Option: Surge

8. What term means having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people?

Option: Advancing

Option: Jubilantly

Option: Astutely

Option: Pioneering

9. Which word means to make an unpleasant feeling less intense?

Option: Expedition

Option: Unyielding

Option: Assuage

Option: Invaluable

10. Which term refers to something expected or predicted?

Option: Viral

Option: Exponentiate

Option: Anticipated

Option: Recalibration

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

11. A _____ in the funds allocated to the project led to delays.

12. Some companies aspire to achieve _____ in their industry.

13. The mentor's advice was _____ to the success of the young entrepreneur.

14. The video went _____ on social media platforms reaching millions of views.

15. His rapid _____ within the company surprised many of his colleagues.

16. The ongoing competition between the two tech giants resembled a _____ for dominance.

17. The team spent days _____ their next move to outmaneuver the competition.

18. The factory required a steady supply of _____ to maintain production levels.

19. The technology sector is constantly _____ with new innovations and breakthroughs.



20. By leveraging digital marketing the company aimed to _____ its customer reach.

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

21. The unexpected about the company's true financial situation shocked investors.
22. The new policy served as the for businesses to adopt more sustainable practices.
23. The team celebrated after winning the championship.
24. The company is known for its work in developing cutting-edge technology.
25. The researchers set out on an to study the rare species in the remote jungle.
26. The company needed to undergo a process of to realign its goals with market demands.
27. Government helped lower the cost of renewable energy projects.
28. The in customer complaints indicated an improvement in product quality.
29. The company's revenue growth was higher than for the quarter.
30. The scandal the reputation of the once-respected politician.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Audacious 2. Reinvestment 3. Whistleblower 4. Entrepreneurial 5. Unyielding 6. Proliferate 7. Surge 8. Astutely 9. Assuage 10. Anticipated

Gap-Fill: 11. Diminution 12. Global dominance 13. Invaluable 14. Viral 15. Ascension 16. Subtle war 17. Meticulously strategizing 18. Raw materials 19. Advancing 20. Exponentiate

Matching sentence: 1. Revelation 2. Impetus 3. Jubilantly 4. Pioneering 5. Expedition 6. Recalibration 7. Subsidies 8. Diminution 9. Anticipated 10. Tainted

CATEGORY

- 1. Business - LEVEL6

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