

SPACE BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2012



SpaceShipTwo performing a non-powered test flight over Mojave, California in July.



A rocket motor test firing being carried out in California.



Click on the image above to view a video about some of the Virgin team working on this groundbreaking project.

GETTING READY FOR POWERED FLIGHTS

Virgin Galactic's partners at Scaled Composites have been exceptionally busy with the flight testing program. Highly regarded in the aerospace industry, Scaled have a strong reputation for their meticulous attention to detail at every stage of the process. Some significant milestones follow...

SpaceShipTwo and WhiteKnightTwo have made significant progress in their flight test program. With close to 100 test flights completed, the unique carrier plane WhiteKnightTwo has substantially completed its test plan. The more recently constructed SpaceShipTwo has safely completed more than 20 free flights, including three that tested the vehicle's unique "feathering" re-entry system. SpaceShipTwo has now completed its non-powered test program and is ready to be fitted with RocketMotorTwo.

In the meantime, 15 test firings of the full scale SpaceShipTwo rocket motor, (RocketMotorTwo), including full duration burns, have been safely and successfully completed.

Scaled has been granted an experimental launch permit from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for its suborbital spacecraft, SpaceshipTwo, and the carrier aircraft, WhiteKnightTwo. In preparation for those powered flights, SpaceShipTwo has already completed testing the aerodynamic performance of the spacecraft with the full weight of the rocket motor system on board. Integration of key rocket motor components will continue into the autumn.

The stage is now set to press onward towards rocket-powered test flights.

For more information about Virgin Galactic and how to reserve your place in space contact your Accredited Space Agent.

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