



March 2023

Update

**Oklahoma Space
Alliance**

A Chapter of The
National Space Society

A free email newsletter of the Oklahoma Space Alliance

Put Me In, Coach!



Credit: CCTV



March 2023 OSA Meeting

Saturday, March 11, 2023

2:00 PM

**Cliff & Claire McMurray's
House**

2715 Aspen Circle, Norman, OK 73072

405-863-6173

Program— Space News and
Events

Website: <http://osa.nss.org>

Quote of the Month

"Success is far from certain, but excitement is guaranteed," – Musk on first Starship launch

Table of Contents

Put Me In, Coach!	1
March 2023 OSA Meeting.....	1
Quote of the Month.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
It's Gettin' Real.....	3
Another Day, Another Leak.....	4
India Succeeds, Japan Fails.....	5
Lunar Companies Go Public.....	6
Presidents in Space!.....	7
The \$100 Billion Jeopardy Question.....	8
Company's Coming to Tiangong'	9
Twice in Nine Hours.....	10
Even in Antarctica.....,	11
This Week At NASA	12
That's All Folks	13

Oklahoma Space Alliance Update

March 11, 2023

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It's Gettin' Real



Credit: CALT

China has unveiled its lunar lander to put taikonauts on the moon, and is building the propellant tank for the Long March 9 rocket that will take it there.

Articles: <https://spacenews.com/china-unveils-lunar-lander-to-put-astronauts-on-the-moon/>

<https://www.space.com/china-huge-propellant-tank-long-march-9-rocket>

Another Day, Another Leak



Credit: NASA

On the heels of the leak of the Soyuz MS-22, on February 11 the cargo ship Progress MS-21, also docked at ISS, suffered a leak. On February 23, Soyuz MS-23 was launched unmanned to replace the leaky crew ship, deemed unsafe to return with astronauts aboard.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/russia-progress-82-cargo-spacecraft-leak>

<https://spacenews.com/russia-delays-uncrewed-soyuz-launch-to-investigate-progress-leak/>

<https://spacenews.com/russia-reschedules-soyuz-launch-after-progress-undocks/>

<https://www.space.com/russian-progress-82-cargo-ship-undocks-after-leak>

<https://www.space.com/russia-replacement-soyuz-ms-23-spacecraft-launch-success>

<https://www.space.com/russia-soyuz-replacement-ms-23-international-space-station-docking>

<https://www.space.com/russia-soyuz-replacement-ms-23-international-space-station-delay-march>

India Succeeds, Japan Fails



Credit: ISRO

India's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) succeeded on the second try (the first one failed to reach orbit last August), placing three satellites into LEO on February 9. Japan had no better luck with its first launch of a new rocket. JAXA's new H3 rocket lifted out of Tanegashima Space Center on March 6, but was destroyed by controllers after the second stage failed to ignite.

Articles: <https://spacenews.com/isro-completes-investigation-into-sslv-launch-failure/>

<https://www.space.com/indian-rocket-sslv-launches-first-successful-mission>

<https://spacenews.com/indias-new-sslv-rocket-succeeds-in-second-try/>

<https://www.space.com/japan-h3-rocket-fails-1st-test-flight>

<https://spacenews.com/japans-h3-rocket-launch-fails-after-second-stage-malfunction/>

Lunar Companies Go Public



Credit: Intuitive Machines

Commercial lunar lander company Intuitive Machines announced February 13 it had closed its merger with Inflection Point Acquisition Corp., a special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) that trades on Nasdaq, although it raised far less money than originally anticipated. The merged company, which retains the Intuitive Machines name, began trading on the Nasdaq on February 14 under the ticker symbol LUNR. Meanwhile, Japanese lunar exploration company ispace will list its shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange beginning April 12, just before the company attempts its first landing on the moon; ispace announced on March 8 it won approval to list shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Growth Market, reserved for smaller, higher-risk companies.

Articles: <https://spacenews.com/intuitive-machines-completes-spac-merger/>
<https://spacenews.com/japanese-lunar-lander-company-ispac-to-go-public/>

Presidents in Space!

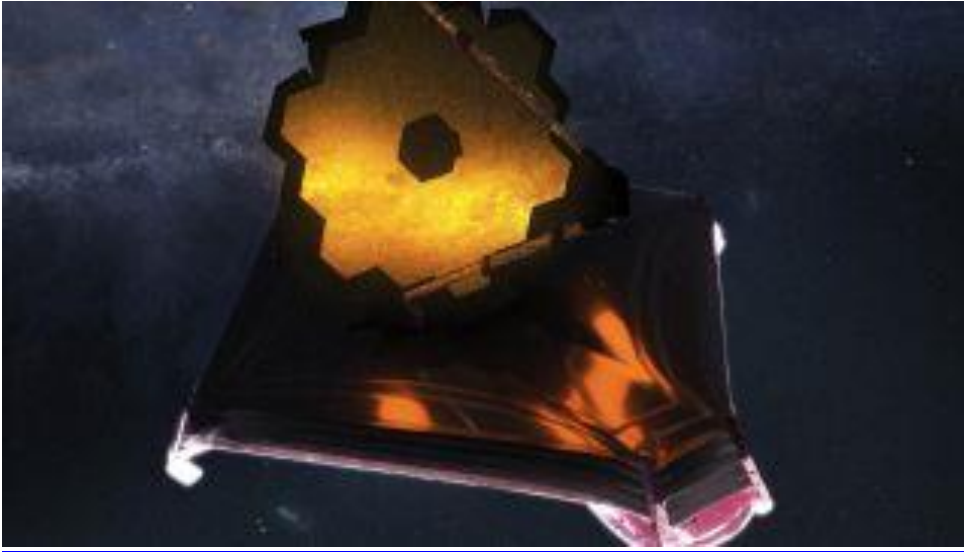


Credit: ULA

Texas-based space burial company Celestis will send remains of George Washington, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan to space on the aerospace firm's upcoming deep space remembrance Enterprise Flight, along with several deceased science fiction superstars (Nichelle Nichols, DeForest Kelley, "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry, his wife Majel Barrett Roddenberry, "Star Trek" engineer James "Scotty" Doohan and "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" VFX master Douglas Trumbull). Their remains will launch sometime this year in special capsules inside a ULA Vulcan rocket.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/celestis-enterprise-us-presidents-dna-deep-space>

The \$100 Billion Jeopardy Question



Credit: NASA/Adriana Manrique Gutierrez

Ooops! Shares of Alphabet lost \$100 billion in a single day of trading after Google's artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot, Bard, incorrectly stated that the Webb Space Telescope was the first to image an exoplanet. That feat was accomplished in 2004, and the telescope that did it wasn't even space-based; it was done by the Very Large Telescope, a flagship facility with the European Southern Observatory in Chile.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/james-webb-space-telescope-google-100-billion>

Company's Coming to Tiangong

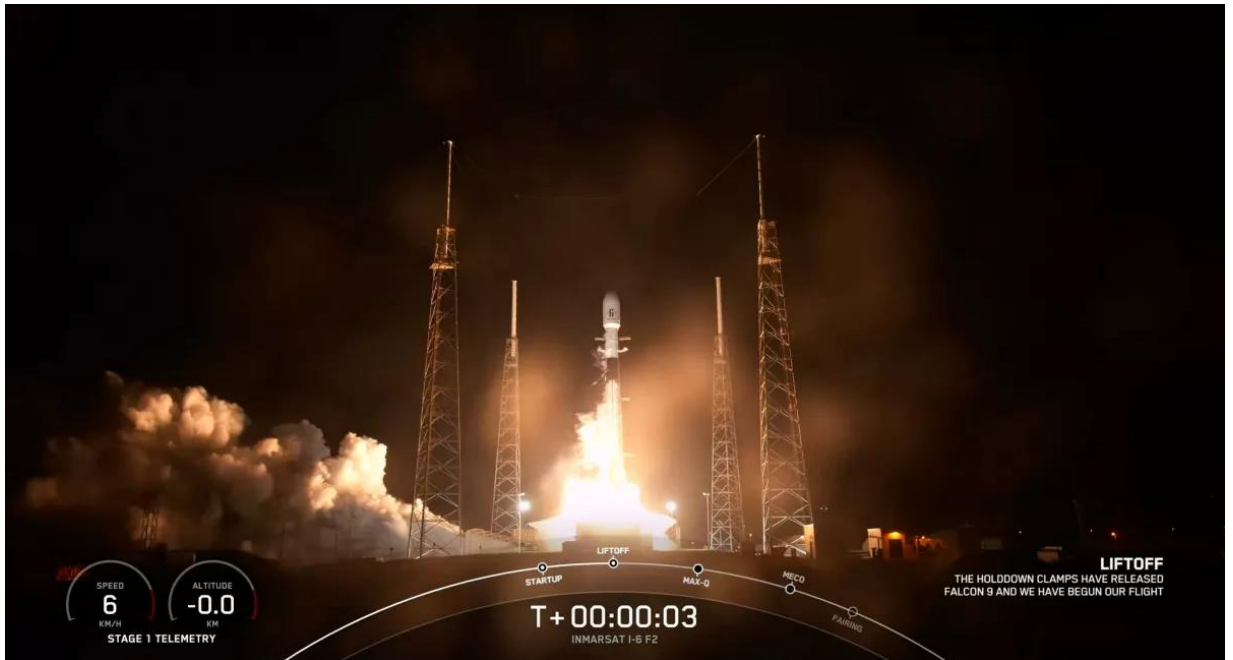


Credit: CMSA/CCTV/Chinese Academy of Sciences

The three-module Chinese space station Tiangong is going to get at least one more module: a multi-functional expansion module that will host six docking ports and turn the T-shaped Tiangong into a cross-shaped configuration. Also, selection will soon be underway for international astronauts to do research aboard Tiangong.

Article: <https://spacenews.com/china-to-expand-its-space-station-international-astronaut-selection-underway/>

Twice in Nine Hours



Credit: SpaceX

One out of Kennedy, one out of Vandenberg; two Falcon 9s launched 9 hours apart on February 17. And they had a very photogenic launch five days earlier...

Article: <https://www.space.com/spacex-launch-doubleheader-starlink-inmarsat>

<https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-launch-february-12-2023-photos>

Even in Antarctica



Credit: CASC

China is building satellite ground stations in Antarctica.

Articles: <https://spacenews.com/china-to-build-satellite-ground-stations-in-antarctica/>

This Week At NASA

Videos: https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/podcasting/twan_index.html

That's All Folks



Credit: JMA/Ral Space/Simon Proud