



January 2024

Update

**Oklahoma Space
Alliance**

A Chapter of The
National Space Society

A free email newsletter of the Oklahoma Space Alliance

Tiangong Complete



Credit: CMSE

January 2024 OSA Meeting

Saturday, January 13, 2024

2:00 PM

Norman Computers

916 W Main St, Norman, OK 73069

405-863-6173

Program— Space News and
Events

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



Quote of the Month

I had long believed it vital to keep an open mind and not lock up on the status quo. Remarkable new technologies that we can't envision in the present are always around the corner. I had seen that in the space program. Without open minds, we'd still be gazing up at the moon wondering what kind of cheese it was made of. – Gordon Cooper

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Oklahoma Space Alliance Update

January 13, 2023

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China's Been Busy



Credit: Ourspace

China launched 67 times in 2023; 17 of those launches were commercial. A Ceres-1 rocket from startup Galactic Energy was the only one that failed.

Article: <https://spacenews.com/chinese-satellite-internet-mission-rounds-off-record-year-for-global-launches/>

...and So Has SpaceX



Credit: SpaceX

SpaceX launched 98 times in 2023. One of the last flights of the year featured a Falcon 9 booster which landed successfully for the 19th time – and was lost in an accident while being towed home.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/spacex-final-rocket-launches-2023-photos-video>

<https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-launch-group-6-32>

<https://www.space.com/spacex-falcon-9-first-stage-1058-lost-recovery>

New Shepard Returns to Flight



Credit: Blue Origin

Grounded for 15 months, Blue Origin returned New Shepard to flight with an unmanned launch on December 19.

Articles: <https://spacenews.com/faa-closes-new-shepard-mishap-investigation/>

<https://www.space.com/blue-origin-return-to-flight-mission-december-2023>

<https://spacenews.com/blue-origin-to-resume-new-shepard-suborbital-launches/>

<https://spacenews.com/new-shepard-returns-to-flight-with-successful-suborbital-mission-2/>

<https://www.space.com/blue-origin-return-to-flight-mission-ns-24>

Rival Spaceplanes



Credit: Staff Sgt. Adam Shanks/US Space Force

China's reusable space plane, called Shenlong, or "Divine Dragon," launched for the third time on December 14. It was followed two weeks later by our own X-37B, flying for the seventh time. Both military missions, both top secret.

Articles: <https://spacenews.com/china-launches-mystery-reusable-spaceplane-for-third-time/>

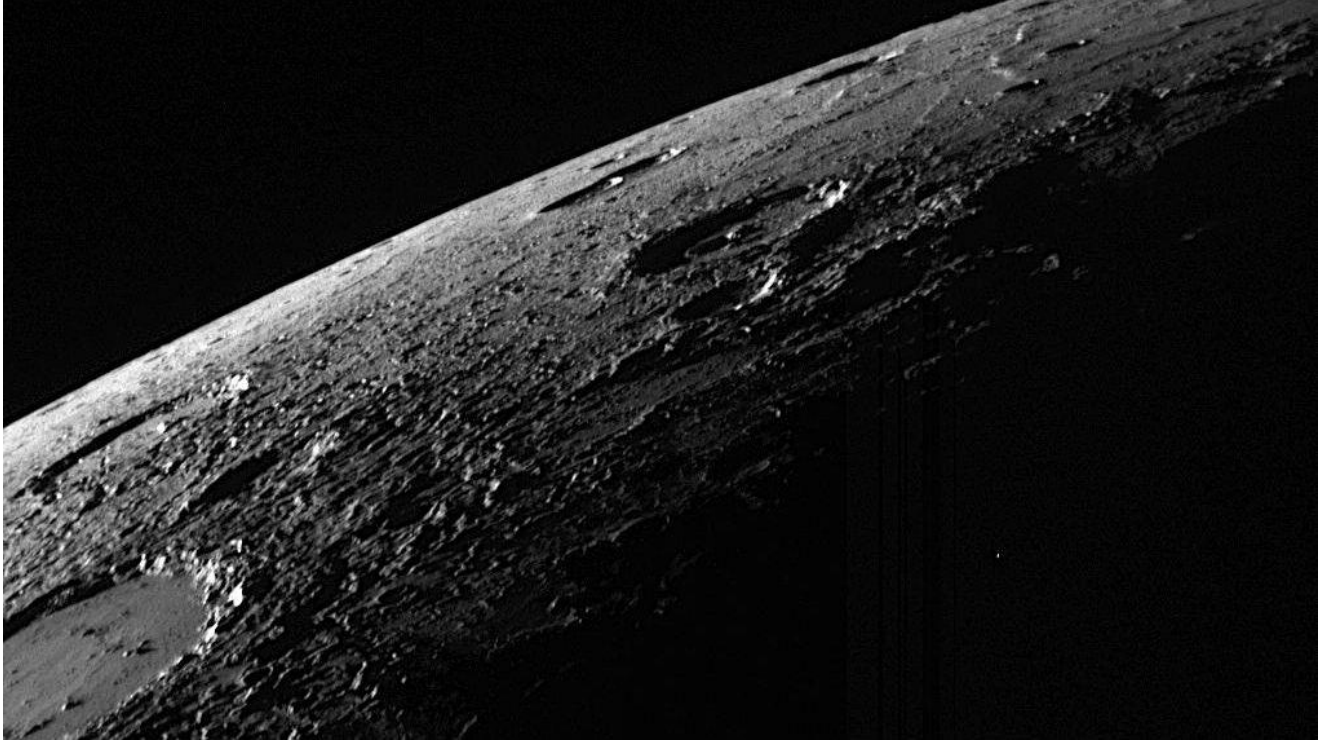
<https://www.space.com/china-space-plane-launch-x-37b-delay>

<https://www.space.com/china-space-plane-depoyed-mystery-objects>

<https://www.space.com/spacex-falcon-heavy-x-37b-space-plane-launch-success>

<https://spacenews.com/spacex-launches-u-s-military-spaceplane-on-falcon-heavy-rocket/>

Life on Mercury?



Credit: NASA

The discovery of salt glaciers on Mercury leads scientists to speculate that life could survive there, similar to life in such extreme locations on Earth.

Article: <https://www.space.com/mercury-salt-glaciers-habitability>

This Week At NASA

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

That's All Folks



Credit: Elon Musk



