



February 2026

Update

**Oklahoma Space
Alliance**

A Chapter of The
National Space Society

A free email newsletter of the Oklahoma Space Alliance

Artemis 2 on the Pad



Credit: NASA/Sam Lott



February 2026 OSA Meeting

Saturday, February 14, 2025

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 hope they forget all about Artemis 2. I think that's a little bit extreme, but we talk about our legacy being enabling the future missions, all the way from Artemis 3 to Artemis 100 to missions to Mars." – Artemis 2 crewmember Christina Koch

Table of Contents

Artemis II on the Pad.....	1
February 2026 OSA Meeting.....	1
Quote of the Month.....	1
Table of Contents.....	2
Safe Return	3
A Leaky Ship.....	4
9 x 4 = SLS.....	5
Next Stride in the Long March.....	6
Self-Driving Car	7
The Odd Couple.....	8
Having Second Thoughts?.....	9
Target Shift.....	10
The Tourists Will Have to Wait.....	11
Space Debris Comes to GEO.....	12
Pump Up the Volume.....	13
Space Force Deorbits.....	14
The Latest Scam.....	15
Promise Becomes Reality...Almost.....	16
Let's Just Call It Recycling.....	17
Look Ma, No Leaks!.....	18
What's In a Name?.....	19
That's All, Folks.....	20

Oklahoma Space Alliance Update

February 14, 2026

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The *Oklahoma Space Alliance Update* is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Oklahoma Space Alliance a chapter of the National Space Society, a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The address of OSA is **102 W. Linn, #1, Norman, OK 73071**.

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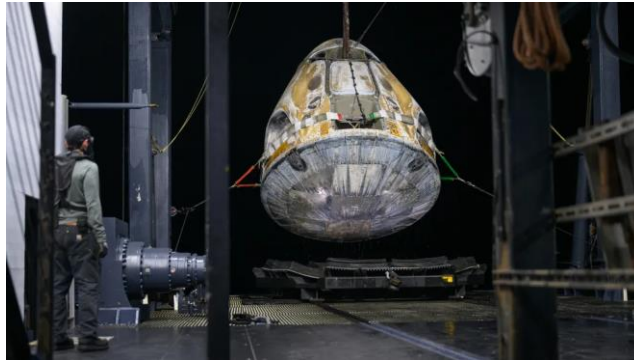
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Safe Return



Credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls

Crew-11 returned to earth on January 15, completing the first medical evacuation from ISS.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/international-space-station/spacex-crew-11-astronauts-return-to-earth-after-1st-ever-medical-evacuation-of-iss>

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/human-spaceflight/we-can-handle-any-kind-of-difficult-situation-crew-11-astronauts-say-1st-medical-evacuation-from-iss-had-a-silver-lining>

A Leaky Ship



Credit: NASA

Hydrogen fuel leaks caused multiple delays in the launch of Artemis 1. The wet dress rehearsal for Artemis 2 revealed the same problem. Artemis 2 had its launch pushed back to March at the earliest.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/artemis/nasa-had-3-years-to-fix-fuel-leaks-on-its-artemis-moon-rocket-why-are-they-still-happening>
<https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/02/nasa-finally-acknowledges-the-elephant-in-the-room-with-the-sls-rocket/>

9 x 4 = SLS



Credit: Blue Origin

Blue Origin has announced plans to upgrade New Glenn to put its performance equivalent to SLS, at a fraction of the cost per flight. This could happen by 2027.

Article: <https://arstechnica.com/space/2025/11/blue-origin-says-its-just-getting-started-with-the-new-glenn-rocket/>

Next Stride in the Long March



Credit: CASC

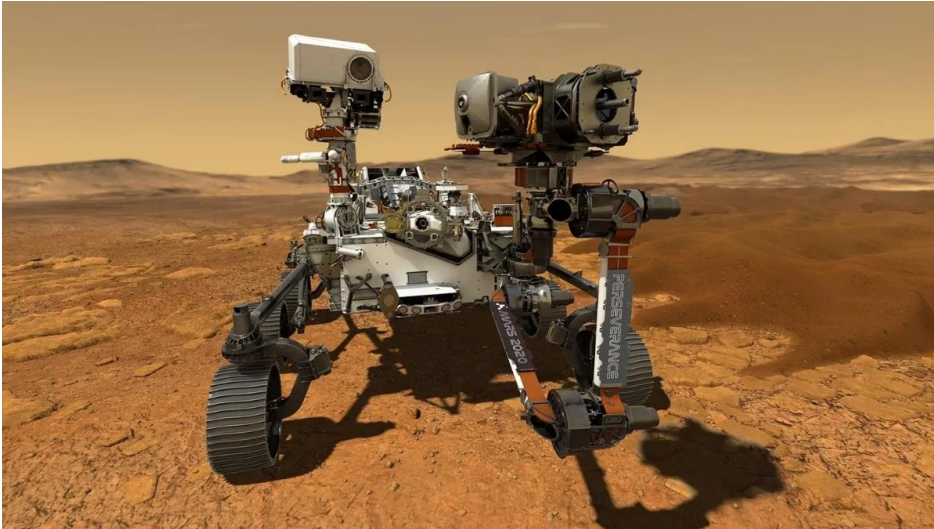
On February 10, China conducted a test of its Long March 10 booster and Mengzhou crew capsule, both key components in its plan to put taikonauts on the moon by 2030. The capsule made a successful abort off the booster at Max-Q, deployed its parachutes and splashed down safely in the water off Hainan Island. The booster continued its ascent into near space without the Mengzhou capsule, then reentered the atmosphere and reignited its engines, making a propulsive landing in the South China Sea right next to a waiting recovery barge.

Articles: <https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/02/china-showcases-new-moon-ship-and-reusable-rocket-in-one-extraordinary-test/>

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202602/1355194.shtml>

<https://spacenews.com/china-tests-crewed-spacecraft-abort-and-rocket-recovery-in-major-lunar-milestone/>

Self-Driving Car

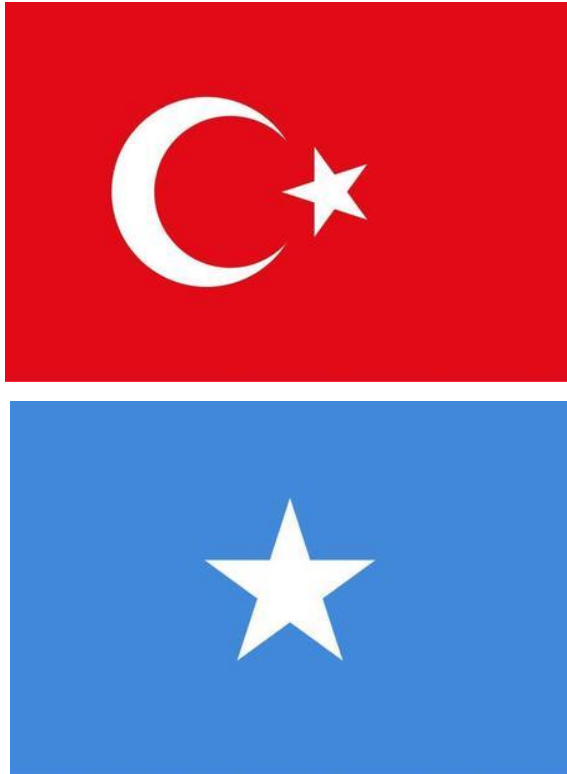


Credit: NASA/JPL-CalTech

In December, the Perseverance team used AI to generate the rover's waypoints, which were then fed into its auto-navigation system. Perseverance was thus enabled, over the course of two days, to drive itself a total of 456 meters (1,496 ft.) without human control.

Article: <https://www.sciencealert.com/nasa-rover-drove-across-mars-without-human-control-for-two-days>

The Odd Couple



Credit: Wikipedia

Turkey has announced plans to build its own spaceport....in Somalia?

Articles: <https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/5681932-turkey-space-program-somalia-risks/>

Having Second Thoughts?



Credit: NASA

Tucked away in the NASA authorization bill approved by the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee in early February is an amendment directing NASA to “carry out an engineering analysis to evaluate the technical, operational, and logistical viability of transferring the ISS to a safe orbital harbor and storing the ISS in such harbor after the end of the operational low-Earth orbit lifetime of the ISS to preserve the ISS for potential reuse and satisfy the objectives of NASA.”

Articles: <https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/02/congress-advances-bill-requiring-nasa-to-reconsider-deorbiting-space-station/>

Target Shift



Credit: SpaceX

Elon Musk says SpaceX has shifted its immediate target from getting to Mars to building a city on the moon.

Article: <https://www.space.com/astronomy/moon/a-city-on-the-moon-why-spacex-shifted-its-focus-away-from-mars>

<https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/02/has-elon-musk-given-up-on-mars/>

The Tourists Will Have to Wait



Credit: Blue Origin

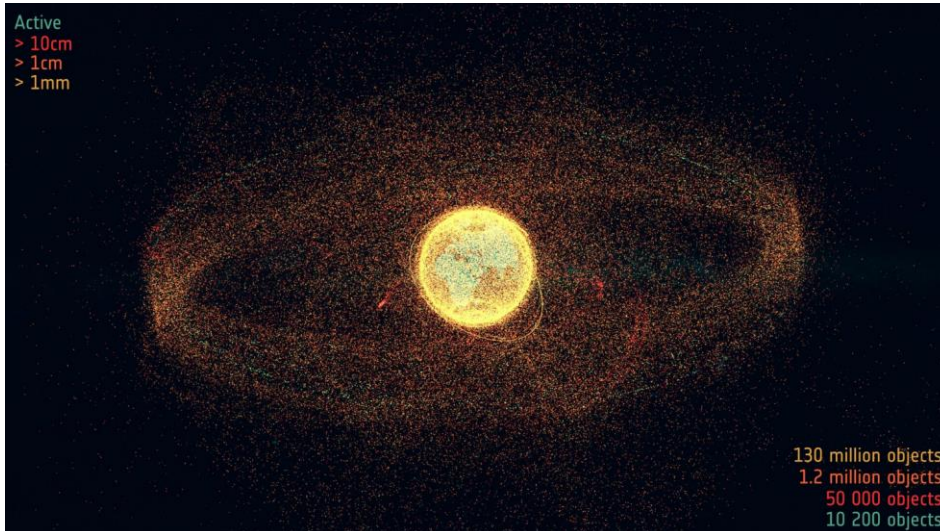
Blue Origins lofted six more tourists to the edge of space on January 22. However, NS-28, the 17th New Shepard tourist flight, will be the last one for at least two years. Blue Origin will, for the time being, devote its full attention to Blue Moon and the race to get back to the lunar surface.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/private-spaceflight/blue-origin-pausing-space-tourism-flights-for-at-least-2-years-to-focus-on-moon-plans>

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/private-spaceflight/blue-origin-ns-38-space-tourist-launch>

<https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/01/heres-why-blue-origin-just-ended-its-suborbital-space-tourism-program/>

Space Debris Comes to GEO



Credit: ESA

Even geostationary orbit is no longer free of space debris. On January 30, the Luch/Olymp satellite, (launched in 2014, one of two secretive military Russian satellites that have been used to stalk spacecraft from the US and others in GEO), suffered a fragmentation event and began to tumble. Down below in LEO, a Starlink satellite suffered a similar fate on December 17.

Article: <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/launches-spacecraft/russian-inspector-satellite-appears-to-break-apart-in-orbit-raising-debris-concerns>

<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/satellites/a-spacex-starlink-satellite-is-tumbling-and-falling-out-of-space-after-partial-breakup-in-orbit>

Pump Up the Volume



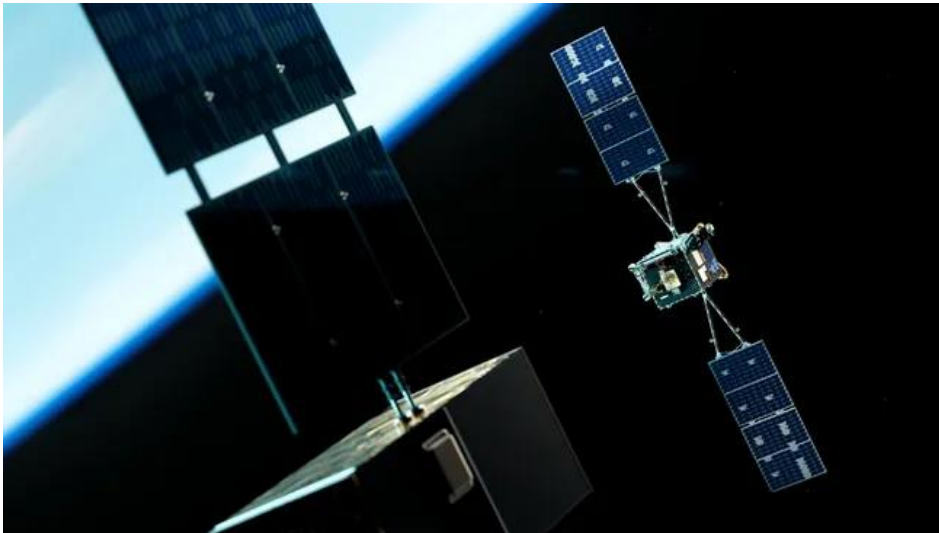
Credit: SpaceX

On January 14, SpaceX set a new record for pad turnaround for Falcon 9 at Cape Canaveral, just 45 hours. Last year, the Eastern Range supported a record 109 launches from the Cape; by 2035 that number may be 350. Many moving parts, including deconfliction of range assets (USSF's Space Systems Command Space Launch Delta 45) and ensuring that each vehicle has all the "commodities," i.e. fuel, LOX, liquid nitrogen and other liquids, that it needs (so far coordinated by the launch providers themselves), are keeping everyone at the Cape busy this month. The pace will only pick up from here.

Articles: <https://spaceflightnow.com/2026/01/14/live-coverage-spacex-to-launch-midweek-starlink-mission-on-falcon-9-rocket-from-cape-canaveral/>

<https://spaceflightnow.com/2026/01/23/eastern-range-ready-for-same-day-fueling-of-space-launch-system-vulcan-rockets/>

Space Force Deorbits



Credit: Starfish Space

Space Force recently awarded Starfish Space a \$52.5M contract to deorbit at least one satellite, and possibly more, from the Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA) network. It's the first deal ever signed for end-of-life disposal services for a constellation in LEO.

Article: <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/launches-spacecraft/us-space-force-awards-1st-of-its-kind-usd52-million-contract-to-deorbit-its-satellites>

The Latest Scam



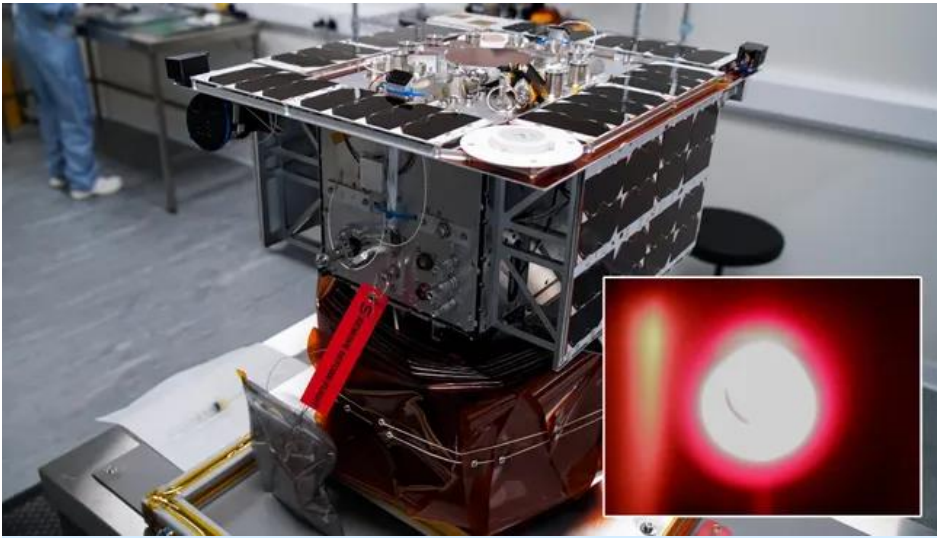
Credit: GRU

Galactic Resource Utilization Space (GRU), founded by Berkeley graduate Skyler Chan, launched their booking website on January 12. Booking for what, for a vacation on the moon, for only \$1M down payment.

Article: <https://www.space.com/astronomy/moon/this-company-is-taking-usd1-million-reservations-for-hotel-rooms-on-the-moon>

<https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/01/you-can-now-reserve-a-hotel-room-on-the-moon-for-250000/>

Promise Becomes Reality...Almost



Credit: Space Forge

In December 2025, as a first step toward semiconductor manufacturing in space, in-orbit manufacturing start-up Space Forge has produced its first plasma in orbit aboard the ForgeStar-1 satellite. ForgeStar-1, launched in June 2025, will not bring any product back to earth; it's a demo satellite and will burn up on reentry.

Articles: <https://www.space.com/space-exploration/a-completely-new-manufacturing-frontier-space-forge-fires-up-1st-commercial-semiconductor-factory-in-space>

Commented [U1]:

Let's Just Call It Recycling



Credit: Roscosmos

The pretty picture above shows what Russia's next-generation space station ROS (Russian Orbital Station) was supposed to look like some day. Now Russia has faced the reality that it doesn't have the money to build ROS. Instead, the Russian elements of ISS will separate from ISS and go their own way before ISS deorbits.

Articles: <https://arstechnica.com/space/2025/12/russia-is-about-to-do-the-most-russia-thing-ever-with-its-next-space-station/>

Look Ma, No Leaks!



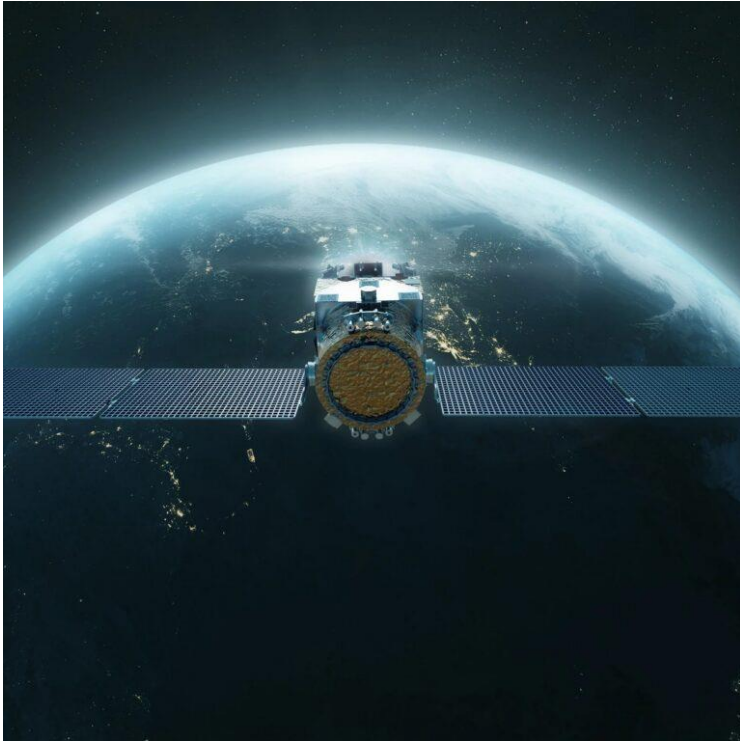
Credit: NASA

The leaks on the Russian side of ISS have, after several years, finally stopped.

Article: <https://arstechnica.com/space/2026/01/finally-some-good-news-for-russia-the-space-station-is-no-longer-leaking/>

Commented [U2]:

What's In a Name?



Credit: Astroscale

Space Force has announced a new naming scheme for its spacecraft that will replace current acronyms with something closer to the USAF's naming system.

Articles: <https://arstechnica.com/space/2025/11/attack-defend-pursue-the-space-forces-new-naming-scheme-foretells-new-era/>

That's All, Folks



Credit: SpaceX