LASER WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SpaceX's ambitious Starship program faced another setback as its spacecraft exploded shortly after lift-off during a test flight on Thursday, marking the second consecutive failure for the company's Mars rocket initiative this year. The Starship lifted off from SpaceX's Boca Chica facility in Texas but began spinning uncontrollably upon reaching space, leading to a loss of engine function and subsequent breakup. The mission aimed to deploy mock satellites, but the explosion prevented this objective from being achieved.

In response, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) launched an investigation and temporarily halted commercial flights in parts of Florida and the Caribbean. The FAA has mandated that SpaceX analyse the failure and implement improvements before any further launches.

This failure represents a significant setback for SpaceX's goal of reducing spaceflight costs and advancing human missions to Mars. The company had previously experienced a similar incident in January when another Starship exploded mid-flight. Despite these challenges, SpaceX remains committed to learning from these failures to strengthen future missions and achieve its long-term vision of interplanetary travel.

The journey to space exploration is fraught with challenges and setbacks, but do these failures hold the key to future success? Each unsuccessful attempt provides invaluable lessons that push the boundaries of innovation. For students passionate about space and technology, how can these incidents inspire resilience, continuous learning, and the relentless pursuit of ambitious goals? Could embracing challenges and viewing failures as stepping stones be the mindset needed to shape the future of space exploration?

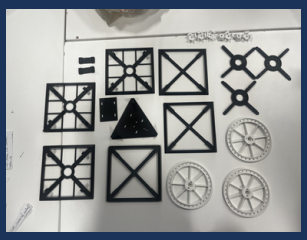
Section written by: Elyazia Alghool

HELP WANTED!

Laser is looking for an Outreach Officer

An Outreach Officer establishes connections with industry professionals, organises trips to companies, and invites guest speakers for talks and workshops.

The Cube team has 3D-printed their components using PLA and completed their component sheet, listing the remaining parts needed to assemble their self-stabilizing cube. Below is a look at some of their components.



The Rover team has made significant progress. Fvern added a light mode to the website and created a resource tracker, while Antifa worked on the shutdown and start up options for the rover. Francis and Marcus collaborated to code a log for tracking code changes, which they found on Reddit. Peter drafted the initial version of the Hear Tracker, which will assist in building the GANTT chart for the CDR. The entire team is working hard to complete the CDR on time. We wish them the best of luck in their competition journey!

Upcoming Events:

Big Game Potluck social with Coding Society: Friday 14th of March, 7pm

LASER Team Photos: Wednesday 2pm, Guild of Students. Team leaders in white, team members in blue

Materials Selection and Processes Workshop: Wednesday, Date TBC

Jurassic Hack: Thursday 13th March, 4-6pm, PC Teaching Centre Room 129a, School of Biosciences

Skyrora Trip: Week 7