

Why does SpaceX want to make the human species interplanetary ? And how to do it ?

I. What is SpaceX ?

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation aka SpaceX is an American company founded in 2002 by the billionaire and entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Using their own Falcon9 rockets and Dragon spaceships, they are the first private company delivering cargo and crew to the ISS.

SpaceX is also developing the Starlink constellation that will deliver high speed broadband internet to locations around the world where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable.

Of course, their main goal is to settle humans on the Moon, Mars and beyond, using their giant Starship vehicle, and that is what this presentation is about.

II. Why become interplanetary ?

The idea of the human species becoming interplanetary is not new. In fact, since the 60s, most if not every serious science fiction movies were wondering how to do it.

The principal argument is the survival of humanity in the case of an event like the impact of an asteroid or a worldwide famine. In fact, if the humans are not only on earth, and this one is destroyed, humans will continue to exist.

III. How to do it ?

First, to make the human species interplanetary, humanity will need low cost and sustainable ways to get into space. In fact, I am talking about big and fully reusable rockets, and to solve that problem, SpaceX imagined the Starship system.

The Starship system is a 50m tall Starship vehicle on top of a 70-meter tall Super Heavy rocket booster. The whole 120m tall stacked system weighs 5000 tons and is fully reusable. It means, after the launch, it can land and then needs a simple refueling to get back to orbit.

For now, even if no Starship has done any orbital flight yet, some prototypes have done 150m hop tests. However, the first orbital flight is set for early 2021. The first flight to Mars is set for as early as 2022. And the first flight to the Moon for NASA is set for 2024.

Conclusion

Finally, going into space for not so much money is coming soon and faster than we expect thanks to SpaceX's Starship. If one of you wants more news about the new space, you can follow my La Revue Galactique pages on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook.

Thank you