

## Astronauts dock with space station after historic SpaceX launch

On Saturday, SpaceX, the rocket company founded by Elon Musk, launched a Falcon 9 rocket with a Crew Dragon capsule carrying two NASA astronauts on top. SpaceX is now the first private business to accomplish a **feat** — taking people to orbit — that had until now only been done by nations.

feat 壮举; 功绩

dock 进港; 对接; 入坞

Less than a day later, the spacecraft **docked** at the International Space Station, successfully completing the first leg of its journey.

This Crew Dragon test flight is a shakedown cruise to certify that the spacecraft meets NASA's needs and safety standards in order to start routine trips taking astronauts to and from the space station. Once astronauts begin using the capsule with regularity, space tourists could also begin to fly it in the years to come.

During Sunday's docking, the approach of the Crew Dragon proceeded smoothly, about 15 minutes ahead of schedule. The two astronauts, Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, took over manual control for a while, firing the **thrusters** to nudge the position of the spacecraft. They then turned control back to a computer on board for the final steps, leading to docking at 10:30 a.m. **EDT**.

thruster 推进器; 助推器

EDT 东部夏季时间

Behnken and Hurley then had to wait close to three hours more as air pressure was equalized between their capsule and the station, tests verified no air leaks and the spacecraft was plugged into the outpost's power systems.

At 1:22 p.m. EDT, the two astronauts **disembarked** the Crew Dragon, exchanging handshakes and hugs with the three astronauts already on the space station.

disembark 下车; 下船

"This has gone as well as we could have expected it to go, " Jim Bridenstine, the NASA administrator, said during a news conference after the docking.