**Elon Reeve Musk**  is a businessman. He is known for [his leadership](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_career_of_Elon_Musk) of [Tesla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tesla,_Inc.), [SpaceX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX), [X (formerly Twitter)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X_(formerly_Twitter)), and the [Department of Government Efficiency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_of_Government_Efficiency) (DOGE). Musk has been considered the [wealthiest person in the world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World%27s_Billionaires) since 2021; as of May 2025, [*Forbes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbes) estimates [his net worth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wealth_of_Elon_Musk) to be US$424.7 billion.

Born to [a wealthy family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musk_family) in Pretoria, South Africa, Musk emigrated in 1989 to Canada. He received bachelor's degrees from the [University of Pennsylvania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Pennsylvania) in 1997 before moving to California, United States, to pursue business ventures. In 1995, Musk co-founded the software company [Zip2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zip2). Following its sale in 1999, he co-founded [X.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X.com_(bank)), an online payment company that later merged to form [PayPal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PayPal), which was acquired by [eBay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EBay) in 2002. That year, Musk also became an American citizen.

In 2002, Musk founded the [space technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_technology) company SpaceX, becoming its CEO and [chief engineer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_technology_officer); the company has since led innovations in [reusable rockets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reusable_rocket) and [commercial spaceflight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial_spaceflight). Musk joined the [automaker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automaker) Tesla as an early investor in 2004 and became its CEO and product architect in 2008; it has since become a leader in [electric vehicles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_vehicle). In 2015, he co-founded [OpenAI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenAI) to advance [artificial intelligence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence) (AI) research but later left; growing discontent with the organization's direction and their leadership in the [AI boom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AI_boom) in the 2020s led him to establish [xAI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XAI_(company)). In 2022, [he acquired](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acquisition_of_Twitter_by_Elon_Musk) the social network Twitter, [implementing significant changes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter_under_Elon_Musk) and rebranding it as X in 2023. His other businesses include the [neurotechnology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurotechnology) company [Neuralink](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuralink), which he co-founded in 2016, and the tunneling company [the Boring Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boring_Company), which he founded in 2017.