1971: Elon Reeve Musk was born on June 28, in Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa.

1992: he left South Africa to study economics and physics at the University of Pennsylvania.

1997: he graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in economics from the Wharton School and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in physics from the College of Arts and Sciences.

1994: Musk held two internships in [Silicon Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silicon_Valley) during the summer: at an energy storage start-up called Pinnacle Research Institute, which researched electrolytic [ultracapacitors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultracapacitor) for energy storage, and at the Palo Alto-based start-up Rocket Science Games

In 1995, Musk and his brother [Kimbal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kimbal_Musk) along with Greg Kouri started [Zip2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zip2), a web software company, with money raised from a small group of [angel investors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_investor).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-rollingstone20171115-31) They housed the venture at a small rented office in Palo Alto.

In March 1999, Musk co-founded [X.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X.com), an online financial services and [e-mail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-mail) payment company, with US$10 million from the sale of Zip2.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-:10-58)[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-Startup_Playbook-59) One year later, the company merged with [Confinity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confinity),[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-shower-55)[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-64) which had a money-transfer service called [PayPal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PayPal#History)

Musk was ousted in October 2000 from his role as CEO (although he remained on the board) due to disagreements with other company executives over his desire to move PayPal's [Unix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix)-based infrastructure to a Microsoft one.[[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-66)

October 2002, PayPal was acquired by [eBay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EBay) for US$1.5 billion in stock, of which Musk received US$165 million.[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-67) Before its sale, Musk, who was the company's largest [shareholder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shareholder), owned 11.7% of PayPal's share

With US$100 million of his early fortune,[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk" \l "cite_note-76) Musk founded Space Exploration Technologies Corp., traded as [SpaceX](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SpaceX), in May 2002.[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-77) Musk is CEO and CTO of the [Hawthorne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawthorne,_California), California-based company. By 2016, Musk's private trust held 54% of SpaceX stock, equivalent to 78% of voting shares.[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-78)

On February 6, 2018, SpaceX successfully launched the [Falcon Heavy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_Heavy), the fourth-highest capacity rocket ever built (after [Saturn V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saturn_V), [Energia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Energia) and [N1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N1_(rocket))).[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] The [inaugural mission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_Heavy_Test_Flight) carried a [Tesla Roadster belonging to Musk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk%27s_Tesla_Roadster) as a [dummy payload](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boilerplate_(spaceflight)).[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-88)[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-89)

In 2017 SpaceX launched 18 successful missions, more than doubling their highest previous year of 8.[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-sdc20171222-87)

On December 22, 2015, SpaceX successfully landed the first stage of its Falcon rocket back at the [launch pad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Launch_pad), the first time this had been achieved by an orbital rocket

SpaceX began development of the [Starlink](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starlink) constellation of low Earth orbit satellites in 2015 to provide [satellite Internet access](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite_Internet_access), with the first two prototype [test-flight](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight_test) satellites launched in February 2018. A second set of test satellites and the first large deployment of a piece of the constellation occurred on May 24, 2019 [UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC) when the first 60 operational satellites were launched.[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-NYT-20190601-90)[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk#cite_note-spaceMay19-91) The total cost of the decade-long project to design, build, and deploy the constellation was estimated by SpaceX in May 2018 to be about US$10 billion.

Tesla Motors first built an electric sports car, the [Tesla Roadster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tesla_Roadster_(2008)), in 2008, with sales of about 2,500 vehicles to 31 countries, which was the first [serial production](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serial_production) all-electric car to use [lithium-ion battery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithium-ion_battery) cells

* In 2006, Musk was a member of the [United States National Academy of Sciences](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_National_Academy_of_Sciences) Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-1)
* [*Inc.* magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inc._(magazine)) Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2007 for his work on Tesla and SpaceX.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-:9-2)
* 2007 Index Design award for his design of the Tesla Roadster.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-3) [Global Green](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Green) 2006 product design award for his design of the Tesla Roadster, presented by [Mikhail Gorbachev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-4)
* [American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Institute_of_Aeronautics_and_Astronautics) George Low award for the most outstanding contribution in the field of space transportation in 2007/2008. Musk was recognized for his design of the [Falcon 1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_1), the first privately developed liquid-fuel rocket to reach orbit.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-5)
* [National Wildlife Federation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Wildlife_Federation) 2008 National Conservation Achievement award for Tesla and SolarCity. Other 2008 recipients include journalist [Thomas Friedman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Friedman), U.S. Senator [Patrick Leahy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Leahy) (D-VT), and Florida Governor [Charlie Crist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Crist).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-6)
* [National Space Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Space_Society)'s Von Braun Trophy in 2008/2009, given for leadership of the most significant achievement in space. Prior recipients include [Burt Rutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burt_Rutan) and [Steve Squyres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Squyres).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-7)
* Listed as one of [*Time*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_(magazine))'s 100 people who most affected the world in 2010.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-time-8)
* The world governing body for aerospace records, [Fédération Aéronautique Internationale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%A9d%C3%A9ration_A%C3%A9ronautique_Internationale), presented Musk in 2010 with the highest award in air and space, the FAI Gold Space Medal, for designing the first privately developed rocket to reach orbit. Prior recipients include [Neil Armstrong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_Armstrong), [Burt Rutan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burt_Rutan) of [Scaled Composites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scaled_Composites) and [John Glenn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Glenn).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-9)
* Named as one of the 75 most influential people of the 21st century by [*Esquire*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquire_(magazine)) magazine.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-10)
* Recognized as a [*Living Legend of Aviation*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_Legends_of_Aviation) in 2010 by the Kitty Hawk Foundation for creating the successor to the Space Shuttle (Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft). Other recipients include [Buzz Aldrin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buzz_Aldrin) and [Richard Branson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Branson).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-11)
* In February 2011, Forbes listed Musk as one of "America's 20 Most Powerful CEOs 40 And Under."[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-forbes20110214-12)
* In June 2011, Musk was awarded the US$250,000 [Heinlein Prize for Advances in Space Commercialization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinlein_Prize_for_Advances_in_Space_Commercialization)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-13)
* In 2012, Musk was awarded the [Royal Aeronautical Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Aeronautical_Society)'s highest award: a Gold Medal.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-14)
* In 2013, Musk was named the [Fortune](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fortune_(magazine)) Businessperson of the year for SpaceX, SolarCity, and Tesla.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-15)
* Awarded the President's award for Exploration and Technology of the [Explorers Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Explorers_Club) at the annual gala on March 16, 2014.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-16)
* In 2014, Elon Musk was honored with an [Edison Achievement Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edison_Awards) for his commitment to innovation throughout his career.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-17)
* In 2015, he was awarded [IEEE Honorary Membership](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IEEE_Honorary_Membership).[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-18)
* In June 2016, [Business Insider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_Insider) named Musk one of the "Top 10 Business Visionaries Creating Value for the World" along with [Mark Zuckerberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Zuckerberg) and [Sal Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sal_Khan).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-19)
* In May 2017, Musk was awarded the [Oslo Business for Peace Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_for_Peace_Foundation).[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-20)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-21)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-23)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-24)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-25)
* In 2018, Musk was ranked 25th on [Forbes list of The World's Most Powerful People](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbes_list_of_The_World%27s_Most_Powerful_People).[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-26)
* Musk was elected a [Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in 2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Fellows_of_the_Royal_Society_elected_in_2018).[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-27)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-28)
* Musk was awarded as member (fifth class) of the Most Admirable [Order of the Direkgunabhorn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Direkgunabhorn) on March 4, 2019 for his contribution in [the rescue at Tham Luang cave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tham_Luang_cave_rescue), [Chiang Rai Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiang_Rai_Province), [Thailand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thailand).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-29)
* In 2019, Musk was awarded the [Starmus Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starmus_Festival)'s [Stephen Hawking Medal for Science Communication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Hawking_Medal_for_Science_Communication)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-30)[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-31)
* Musk was listed joint first on the Forbes list of the Most Innovative Leaders of 2019.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-32)
* On November 24, 2020, Musk was ranked #2 on Forbes' [Billionaires List](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World%27s_Billionaires)[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_honors_received_by_Elon_Musk#cite_note-33)