

Free Subscription Today's News Weekly News Recent Stories Corporate Activity	<h2>SATNEWS DAILY</h2> <h3>Falcon 1 Reaches Space But Loses Control and is Destroyed on Re-Entry</h3> <p>EL SEGUNDO, Calif., March 21, 2007 - Satnews Daily - Falcon 1 lifted off successfully but failed to reach its target orbit and burned up on re-entry after a roll control problem threw it off course.</p> <p>The sad ending to the widely anticipated and watched (via Webcast) Falcon 1 saga, however, was declared a success by SpaceX Exploration Technologies), owner and operator of Falcon 1.</p> <p>SpaceX said the two-stage Falcon 1 was launched from its Omelek Island launch site at 9:10 p.m. EDT (0110 March 21 GMT) suffered a roll control malfunction 300 kilometers above Earth before completing its flight plan.</p> <p>The roll control anomaly affected control of Falcon 1's second stage booster. This loss of control threw the booster off course, it crashing to an unscheduled re-entry over the Pacific Ocean without completing a full orbit. The first stage parachuted onto the Ocean and is being recovered by SpaceX.</p> <p>"We successfully reached space, and really retired almost all of the risk associated with the rocket," said Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX.</p> <p>Despite the failure, Musk said they feel like there's really no need for an extra test flight. He noted that SpaceX launched Falcon 1 demonstration for the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to prove the booster's capabilities.</p> <p>"The rocket business is definitely not a low-stress business, that's for sure, but I don't think I'm disappointed. In fact, I'm</p> <p>He was buoyed by Falcon 1's lift off, its successful first-stage and payload fairing separations and the second stage ignition improvements incorporated into the vehicle since its first March 2006 failure were a success.</p> <p>"I think it's fair to characterize this as a success and a good day," Musk said. "Not a perfect day, but a good day."</p> <p>DARPA bankrolled the second Falcon 1 flight to the tune of \$7 million. The primary aim of the mission was to gather flight data for a customer for SpaceX's future launches. Falcon 1 payload was a 50 kilogram experimental satellite that was to have been planned included an automated flight safety system, low-cost satellite communications transceiver and mechanical payload adapter ring.</p> <p>"The malfunction could have been due to a range of issues, such as helium leak or a roll control jet glitch, but only a subsequent</p> <p>On the company website, he noted that "operationally responsive (ie fast) launch has become an increasingly important national propellents and launch in less than an hour, as well as a rapid recycle following the first engine ignition are major accomplishments.</p> <p>Hanging in the balance is the fate of the third Falcon 1 mission. SpaceX is scheduled to launch the TacSat-1 military communications third mission will also carry a secondary payload of cremated remains, provided through Space Services Inc. Among those to be launched are Cooper and "Star Trek" actor James ("Scotty") Doohan.</p> <p>A second consecutive launch failure for Falcon 1, which is championing a cheaper way of getting into space, should have been a launch that should this second flight go awry, the company will not wait for another year before launching its third attempt.</p> <p>"The reason it took us a year is that the vehicle on the pad and the ground support equipment have hundreds of robustness</p> <p>"Therefore, no matter what happens, I do not expect there to be a significant delay in their approximate end of summer and</p> <p>SpaceX has scheduled a total of three Falcon 1 launches for 2007. The second flight by Falcon 1 came hours after the first attempt.</p> <p>The highly anticipated second flight of the reusable rocket was aborted less than two minutes before liftoff at 4:45 p.m. because of a problem with the data link, SpaceX vice president of business development Gwynne Shotwell said.</p> <p>This link was eventually re-established, however. While the data link was not mission critical for the launch, SpaceX felt it was able to see the launch data.</p> <p>The second mission for Falcon 1 comes nearly a year after the first vehicle exploded shortly after takeoff. SpaceX traced the problem and led to a premature engine cutoff. SpaceX engineers have since made improvements to the rocket and its launch site infrastructure.</p> <p>SpaceX launched Falcon 1 from a site at Omelek Island on Kwajalein Atoll, part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. SpaceX founded the Internet payment scheme, PayPal.</p> <p>Musk has spent \$100 million of his own money to develop low-cost rockets that would dramatically increase access to space for private citizens.</p>	<h3>Today's News</h3> <p>September 28, 2007</p> <p>DAWN Is On Its Way Down Under Surfacing As WGS Partner Hughes Gets Into Enea's Middleware GeoEye Looks At Improved Imagery And Buys In Milstar Milestone For Rockwell Collins Rocks & Bricks = New SatCom Services YES2 Is Now A NO NO Orbits: News Briefs... Thompson Is Tops At IBC2007 - Chavez Chomping At Russian Jets And Chinese Satellite - DISHing Out More Sports - Online Reg Now Running For PTC '08</p>
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SpaceX, is trying to break into the orbital space launch market. Falcon 1 is designed to carry up to 1,254 pounds to low Earth orbit for the U.S. military.

The Falcon 1 mission is a precursor to the launch of Falcon 9 rocket, a heavy-lift booster currently under development to launch the first U.S. commercial satellite in 2009, is SpaceX's entry to NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation System (COTS), a program aimed at finding private companies to deliver cargo to the International Space Station (ISS).

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