

**Elon Reeve Musk** (/ˈiːlɒn/ *EE-lon*; born June 28, 1971) is a [business magnate](#) and investor. Musk is the founder, chairman, CEO and chief technology officer of [SpaceX](#); [angel investor](#), CEO, product architect and former chairman of [Tesla, Inc.](#); owner, chairman and CTO of [X Corp.](#); founder of [the Boring Company](#); co-founder of [Neuralink](#) and [OpenAI](#); and president of the Musk Foundation. He is the wealthiest person in the world, with an estimated net worth of US\$241 billion as of September 2023, according to the [Bloomberg Billionaires Index](#), and \$261 billion according to [Forbes](#), primarily from his ownership stakes in both Tesla and SpaceX.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

Musk was born in [Pretoria](#), South Africa, and briefly attended the [University of Pretoria](#) before immigrating to Canada at age 18, acquiring citizenship through his Canadian-born mother. Two years later, he [matriculated](#) at [Queen's University](#) in Kingston, Ontario. Musk later transferred to the [University of Pennsylvania](#), and received bachelor's degrees in economics and physics there. He moved to California in 1995 to attend [Stanford University](#). However, Musk dropped out after two days and, with his brother [Kimbal](#), co-founded online [city guide](#) software company [Zip2](#). The startup was acquired by [Compaq](#) for \$307 million in 1999, and with \$12 million of the money he made, that same year Musk co-founded [X.com](#), a [direct bank](#). X.com merged with [Confinity](#) in 2000 to form [PayPal](#).

In 2002, [eBay](#) acquired PayPal for \$1.5 billion, and that same year, with \$100 million of the money he made, Musk founded SpaceX, a [spaceflight](#) services company. In 2004, he became an early investor in [electric vehicle](#) manufacturer Tesla Motors, Inc. (now Tesla, Inc.). He became its chairman and product architect, assuming the position of CEO in 2008. In 2006, Musk helped create [SolarCity](#), a solar-energy company that was acquired by Tesla in 2016 and became [Tesla Energy](#). In 2013, he proposed a [hyperloop](#) high-speed [vactrain](#) transportation system. In 2015, he co-founded OpenAI, a nonprofit [artificial intelligence](#) research company. The following year, Musk co-founded Neuralink—a [neurotechnology](#) company developing [brain–computer interfaces](#)—and the Boring Company, a tunnel construction company. In 2022, he [acquired Twitter](#) for \$44 billion. He subsequently merged the company into newly created [X Corp.](#) and rebranded the service as X the following year. In March 2023, he founded [xAI](#), an artificial-intelligence company.

[Musk has expressed views](#) that have made him a polarizing figure. He has been criticized for making unscientific and misleading statements, including spreading [COVID-19 misinformation](#) and promoting [conspiracy theories](#). His [Twitter ownership](#) has been similarly controversial, including laying off a large number of employees, an increase in [hate speech](#) on the platform, and changes to [Twitter Blue verification](#). In 2018, the [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#) (SEC) sued him for falsely tweeting that he had secured funding for a private takeover of Tesla. To settle the case, Musk stepped down as the chairman of Tesla and paid a \$20 million fine.