

Today, SpaceX tested the engines of its Crew Dragon spacecraft, an essential step towards a crucial test flight and potential human missions next year. The engines are part of the emergency abort system, designed to carry the capsule to safety if the rocket fails mid-air. This follows an April incident where a test capsule exploded due to a leaky valve, prompting a redesign. The test marks the completion of the accident investigation, allowing SpaceX to proceed with development under NASA's Commercial Crew Program. The next step is to test the emergency engines mid-flight. Successful completion of these tests will pave the way for the first crewed mission, potentially in early 2020, sending NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley to the ISS.