

Spaceport America Status



Science, Technology, Telecommunications Committee

Held at NM Tech, Socorro

Scott McLaughlin, Executive Director

August 10, 2026

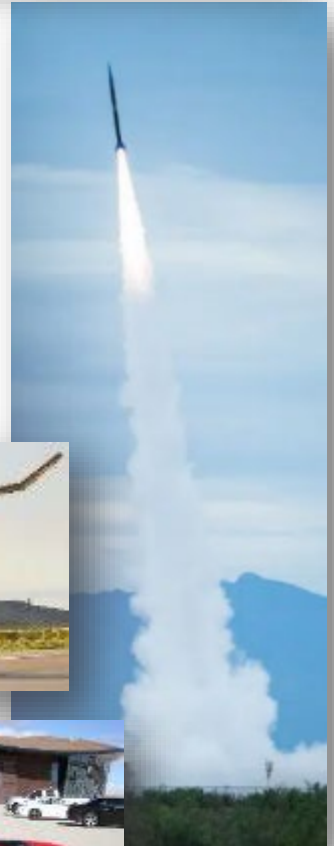
THE SPACE TO BE...

Outline

- Select Customer Updates
- NMSA Revenue, Budget, and Org Charts
- Economic Impact
- Capital Improvements
- Outreach Examples
- Space Economy Growth
- Plan for Next Five Years



CUSTOMERS AND EVENTS



STTC, Socorro, NM





HERMEUS



- Working on uncrewed hypersonic vehicle designs
- Built their own hangar, with expansion at the spaceport in the future
- This customer demonstrates an increasing acceptance of the spaceport within the defense sector.



STTC, Socorro, NM

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hermeus/>

VIRGIN GALACTIC UPDATE

- First spaceship: Spaceport America flight testing begins Q3/Q4 2026; commercial operations targeted for Q4 2026
- Second spaceship: Expected to enter service late Q4 2026–early Q1 2027
- NMSA and VG are currently negotiating a new hangar to be built by VG, along with the renewal of the SPA lease.
- Next quarterly report is Aug. 12
- Latest VG updates:
<https://investors.virgingalactic.com/overview/default.aspx> and
<https://www.youtube.com/@VirginGalactic>



First Delta Spaceship in Mesa, AZ

Example operations scenario: Two spaceships conducting approximately **125 flights per year** could carry about 600 private astronauts and attract an estimated **12,000 related visitors** to the region. Assuming these visitors generate approximately **60,000 visitor-nights** and spend an average of \$180 per visitor per night on lodging, meals, transportation, and other local purchases, their visits would generate approximately **\$10.8 million in direct annual spending in the regional economy.**

VIRGIN GALACTIC NEAR-TERM



FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM

(ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE)



From **March 30, 2026**, “2025 Q4 and Year-End Earnings Report”

NMSA Budget Background, Page 1



- The **spaceport has never been busier**, and the number of customer operations continues to increase each year.
- To support and continue this growth, we **need to expand our staff** and services. Current staffing is not sized for the increasing operating tempo, and it is essential that we strengthen our team to sustain growth in revenue and economic impact.
- Due to the technical nature of customer operations, **each client requires substantial project management** to successfully integrate them into the spaceport and support them once they begin operations. A primary focus is safety, while also prioritizing customer logistics and coordination with White Sands Missile Range.
- Note that the spaceport operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the entire year. There are many fixed expenses, including contractual costs, that cannot be cut.

NMSA Budget Background, Page 2



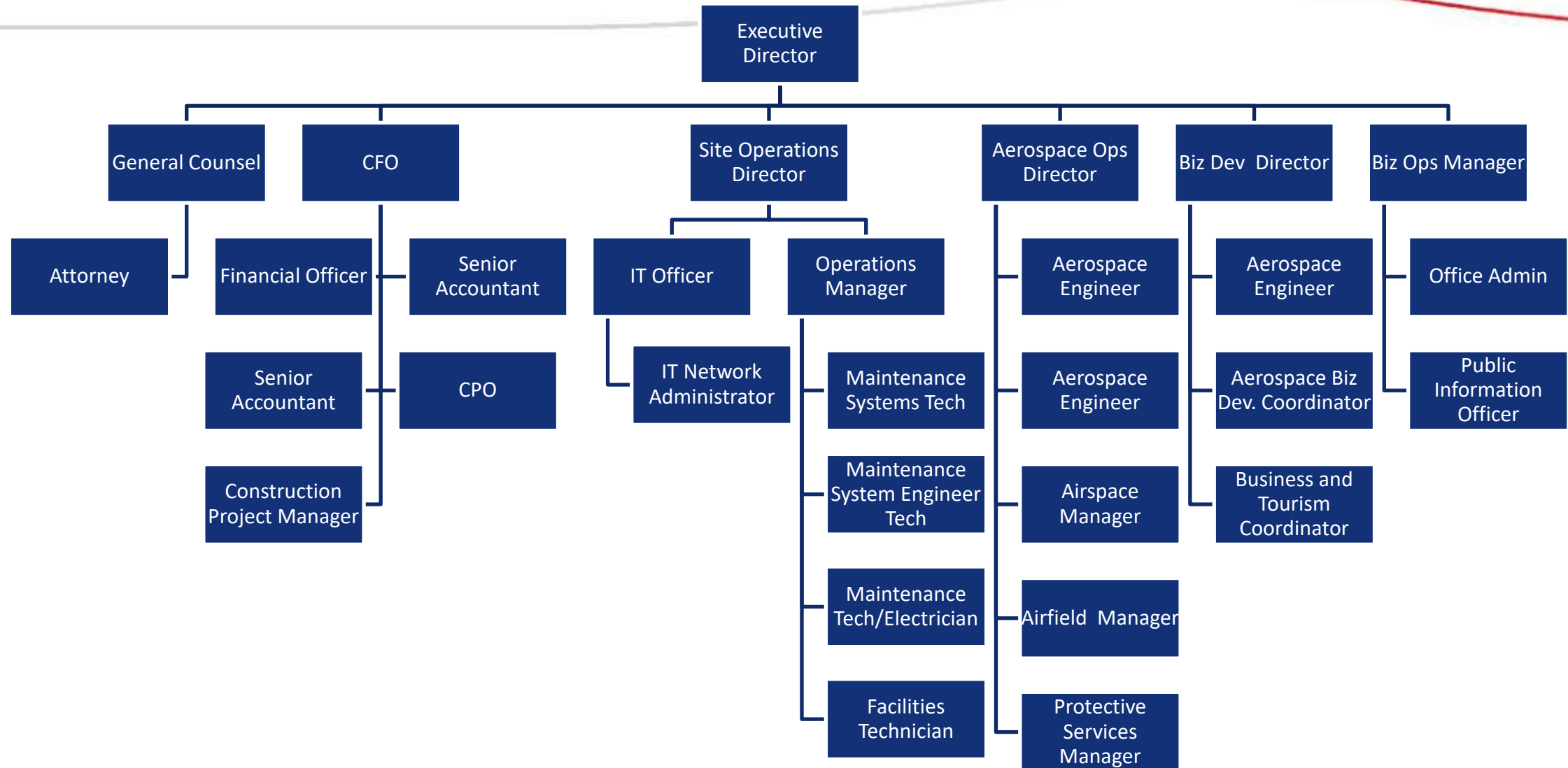
- Even as the **spaceport is more active than ever**, we face significant budget pressures.
- In 2024, Virgin Galactic **invoked a provision of a 2018 Letter Agreement to reduce User Fee payments** from \$188,888 to \$50,000 a month—a reduction of approximately \$1.66 million over a 12-month period. *(VG's Gateway to Space lease payments remain unchanged at approximately \$3 million annually.)*
- VG initially stated that full payments would resume in the **second half of 2025**. However, **VG has continued to make reduced payments and has not provided NMSA with a specific date for when the full User Fee will be restored**. Under VG's interpretation of the 2018 Letter Agreement, the full User Fee resumes 30 days before the next revenue-generating spaceflight, **regardless of the level of NMSA support required for VG operations**.
- The reduction in VG User Fee payments **for approximately two years**, rather than one, has created significant NMSA budget challenges.
- **NMSA disagrees with VG's interpretation of the 2018 Letter Agreement** and believes the continuing reduction in User Fee payments is inconsistent with the level of services NMSA has been providing since January 2026. These services include support for flight testing, airspace, runway, and WSMR scheduling, pilot proficiency flights, FAA support, fueling, runway FOD sweeps, other preparatory operations, and spaceport opportunity costs. Despite ongoing discussions, NMSA has not been successful in restoring the **full User Fee payment level**.

NMSA Budget Background, Page 3

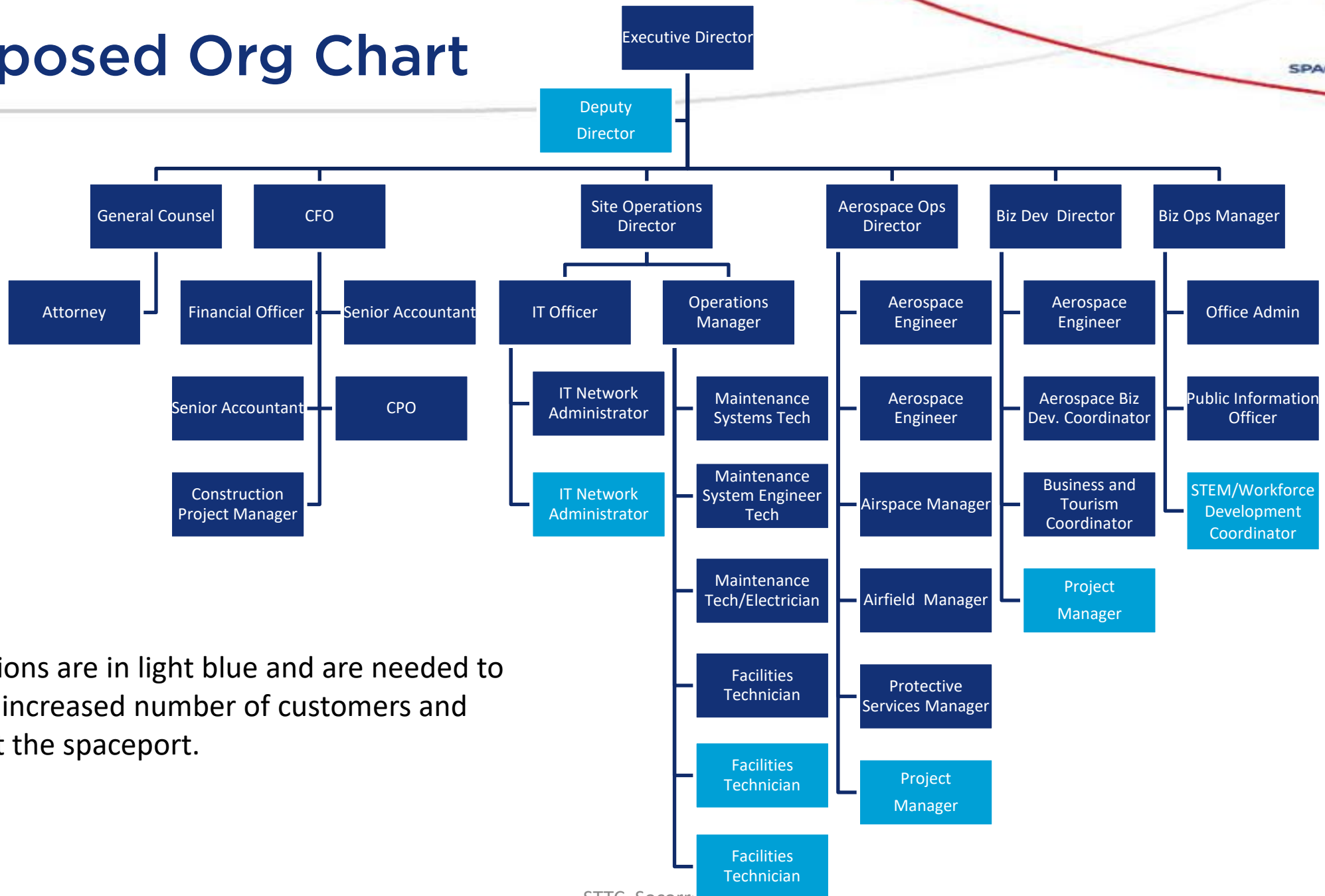


- Despite reduced revenue from Virgin Galactic, Spaceport America requires **additional staff** to support growing customer activity (including VG's), to operate new facilities (i.e., new hangar and STARC building), protect and increase economic impact, and to maintain 24/7 operations.
 - *Deputy Director*
 - *STEM / Workforce Coordinator*
 - *Facilities Technicians (2 needed)*
 - *Customer / Project Managers (2 needed)*
 - *IT Network Administrator*

Current Org Chart

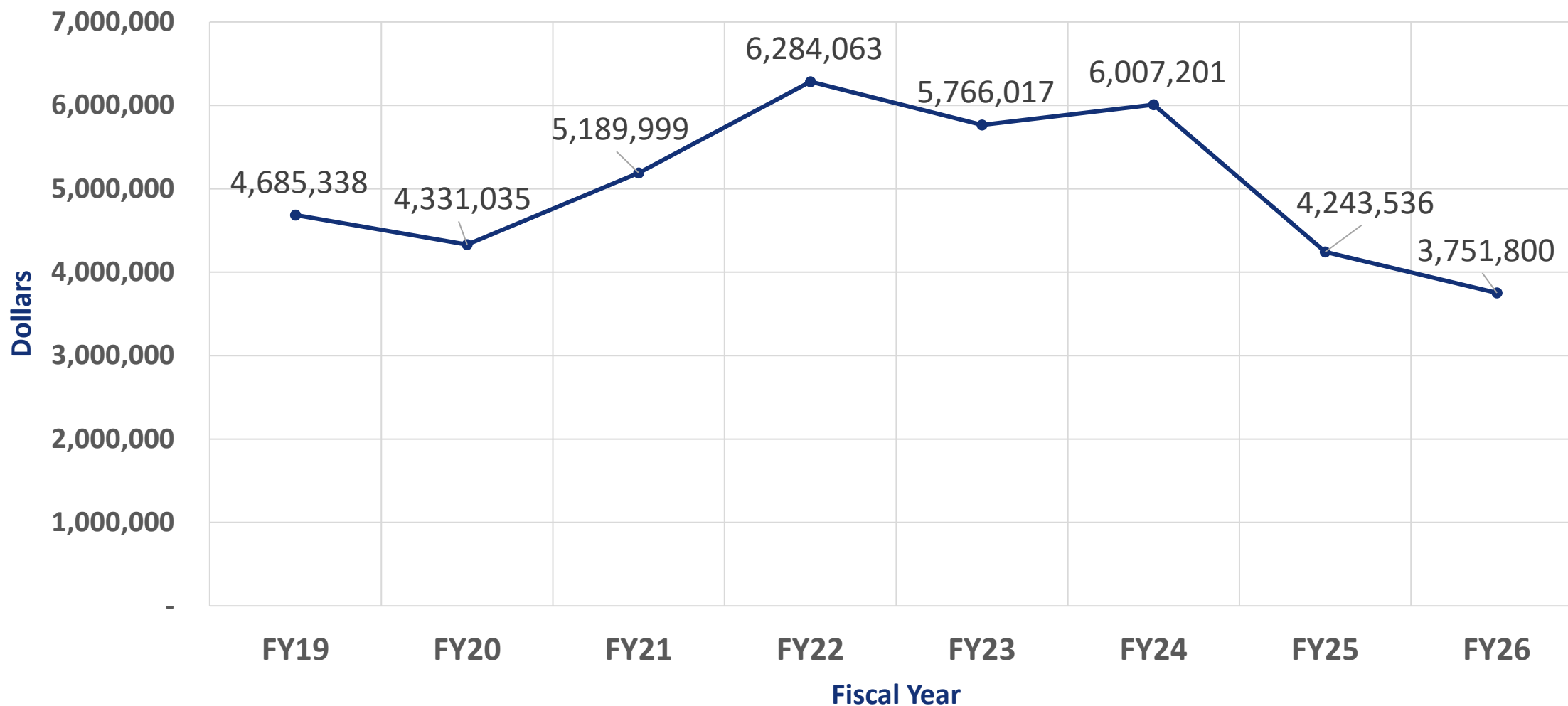


Proposed Org Chart

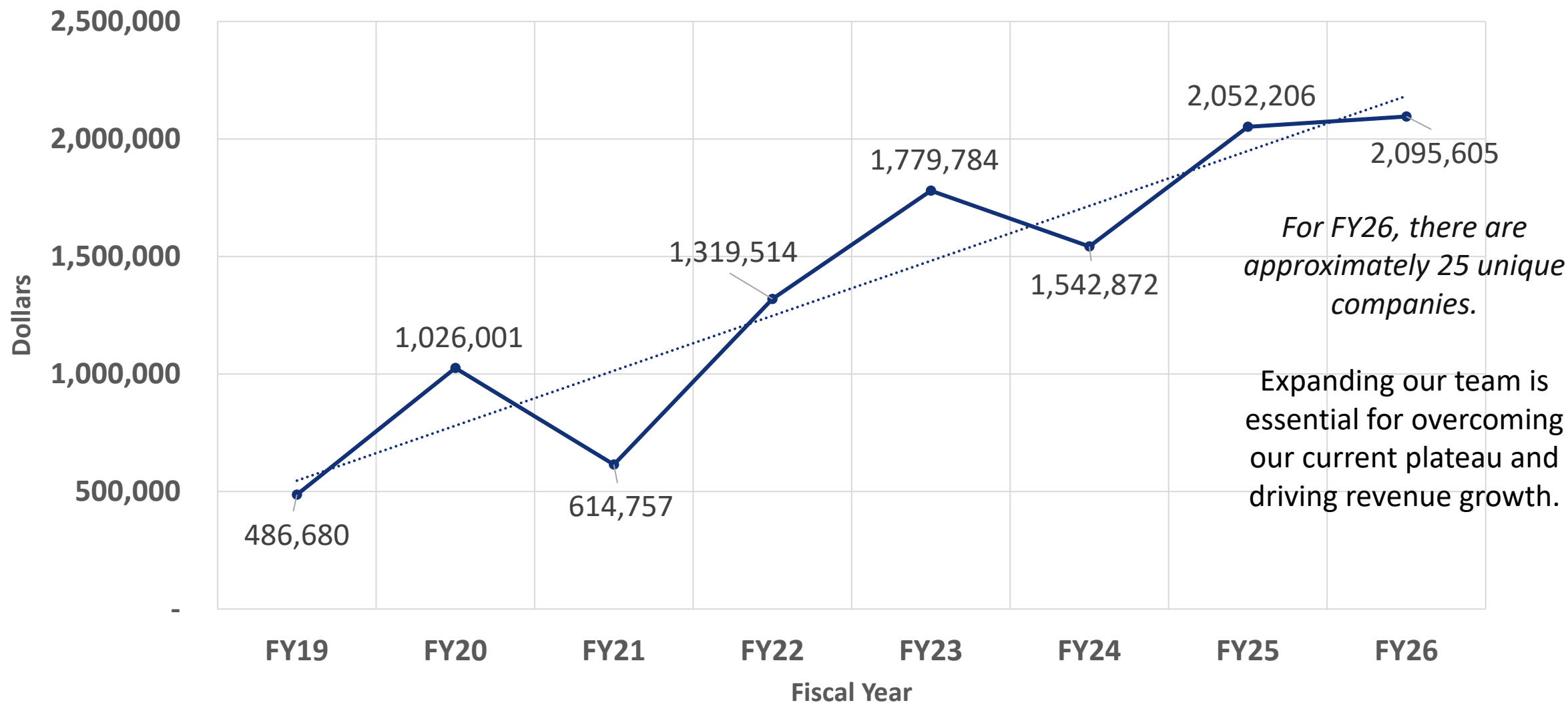


New positions are in light blue and are needed to handle an increased number of customers and facilities at the spaceport.

Revenue from Virgin Galactic, FY19-FY26



Customer Revenue (non-VG), FY19-FY26

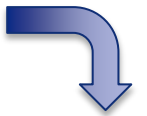


Spaceport America Economic Impact, 2019 - 2024



- NMSU Center for Border and Economic Development (<https://cbcd.nmsu.edu/>)
- Impacts include tenant employment (direct, indirect, induced), privately funded construction, out-of-state visitor spending, and spaceport customer revenues.

Impact	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Direct Jobs	242	487	221	549	431	313
Total Jobs	396	896	609	811	985	790
Economic Output	\$72,265,317	\$196,511,257	\$168,920,735	\$138,080,756	\$266,020,386	\$239,784,359
Value-Added Production	\$31,756,350	\$91,988,529	\$74,519,634	\$60,435,345	\$122,419,195	\$110,769,271
Labor Income	\$22,273,071	\$59,209,861	\$52,648,224	\$45,845,649	\$81,428,508	\$73,118,968
Total Taxes:	\$7,335,456	\$19,058,128	\$16,535,240	\$12,907,325	\$27,192,833	\$24,405,576
Federal	\$4,818,874	\$13,223,950	\$11,044,930	\$9,161,760	\$18,425,948	\$16,646,473
New Mexico	\$2,239,220	\$5,834,178	\$5,490,310	\$3,745,475	\$8,766,885	\$7,759,103



\$492 million in cumulative value-added production, 2019–2024.

NMSA Budget, as of July 14, 2026 (in thousands)



	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY27	FY27
	Actual/Audited	Orig. Budget	Y-T-D, Unaudit.	Budgeted	Projected
Operating Revenue	\$6,250	\$8,394	\$6,892	\$8,162	\$11,095
General Fund	4,071	4,139	4,139	4,368	4,368
Revenue Total	10,321	12,533	11,031	12,530	15,463
200 Personal	3,767	4,002	4,112	4,258	3,990
300 Contract	5,237	6,352	4,915	6,632	9,035
400 Other Costs	2,428	2,679	2,768	2,733	5,257
Expense Total	11,432	13,033	11,795	13,623	18,282
Operating Net	(1,111)	(500)	(764)	(1,093)	(2,819)
Fund Balance	1,111	500	2,575	1,093	2,037
Supplemental	0	0	650		
Net Result	\$0	\$0	\$2,461	\$0	(\$782)
(1) VG user fees decreased \$1.416 million in FY26.					
(2) Ending Fiscal Year 2026 Fund Balance of \$2.036 million projected to be fully expended.					

CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY

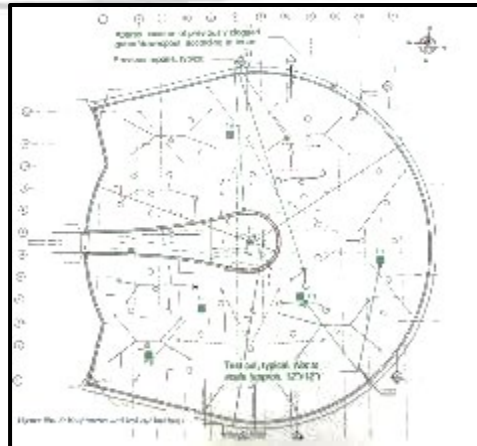
(UPDATED, APRIL 6, 2026)

Legend						
Planning						
RFP/Procurement						
A/E						
Construction						
Close-Out/Closed						
ACTIVE PROJECTS			FY26			
PROJECT	AMOUNT	NOTES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SPA Pavement Maintenance Engineering	\$106,685	Report completed. Construction procurement underway.				
HLA North/NE Road and Utility Improvements (Civil Design)	\$117,828	Design completed. Procurement phase in progress.				
SPA Rancher Grazing Mitigation and Access Control	\$500,588	Mobilization in progress; submittal phase underway.				
Fabric Hangar/Payload Facility Including Apron and Taxiway	\$16,815,791	Sitework and utility installation currently in progress.				
Site Electrical (Fabric hangar/ Payload Facility)	\$527,865	Sitework and utility installation currently in progress.				
Mechanical/ Plumbing (Fabric hangar/ Payload Facility)	\$1,082,853	Sitework and utility installation currently in progress.				
Interior Electrical (Fabric hangar/ Payload Facility)	\$1,083,493	Sitework and utility installation currently in progress.				
Fire Suppression System(Fabric hangar/ Payload Facility)	\$937,606	Sitework and utility installation currently in progress.				
CA Services Material Testing/QA/QC – Hangar	\$352,068	Material testing and quality control services ongoing.				
HLA S. Access Road and Water Utilities Extension	\$2,414,474	Near complete				
N. Sanitary Sewer Planning and Engineering	\$56,720	60% Design documents Underway				
STARC Building Design Build	\$16,000,000	Construction underway.				
GTS Roof Replacement	\$3,200,00	Replacement under way				

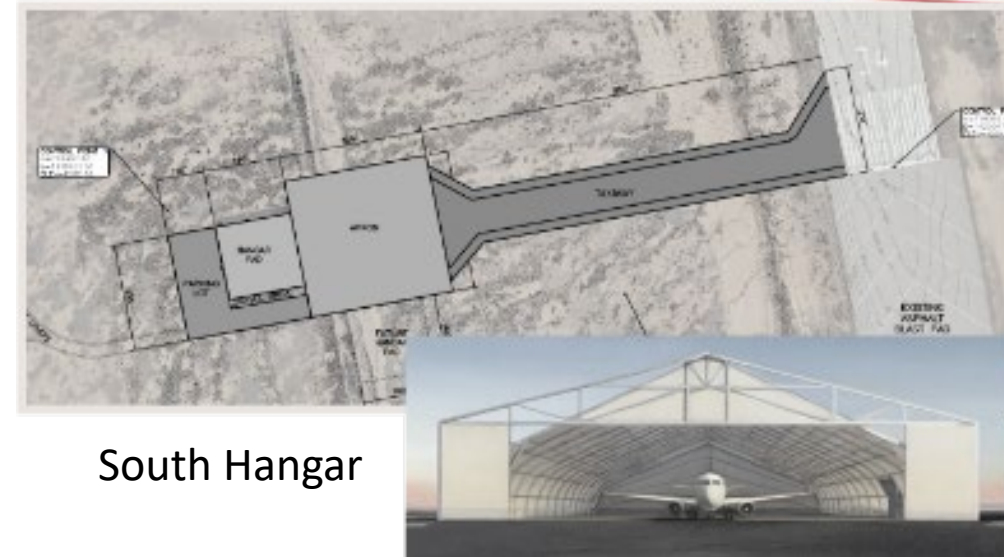
ONGOING CAPITAL PROJECTS



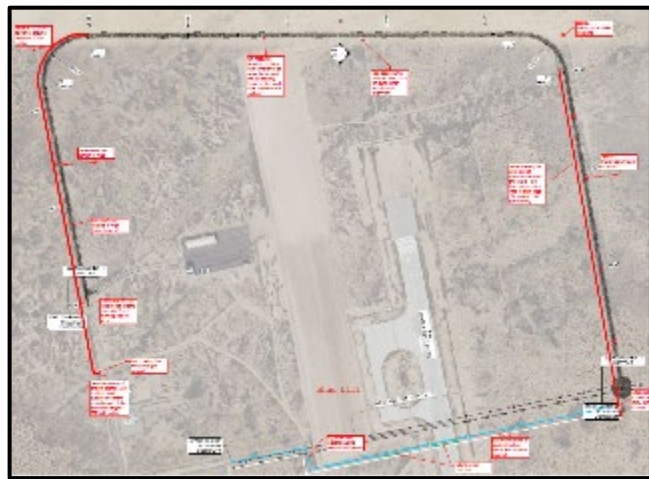
STARC Building



GTS Roof



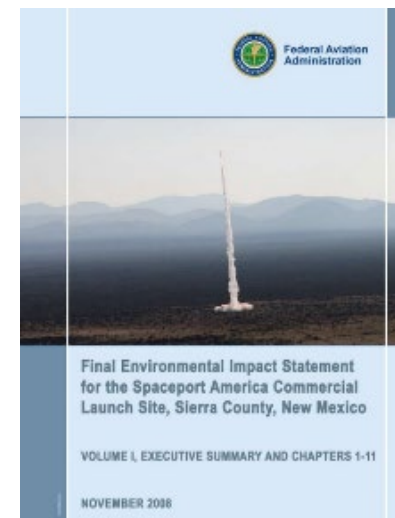
South Hangar



North HLA Road and Utilities



Pavement Repairs



EIS Update



South HLA Road and Utilities

STARC – Front view, facing to the east



STARC – Back of building, facing to the west.



STARC – Entrance



STARC – Flex Space



Recent Outreach (Total 6,096 participants for FY26)



Friday, March 13-Sunday, March 15, | Great American Flag
Saturday, March 21, | Bataan Memorial Death March volunteer
Wednesday, March 25, | Junior Leadership Las Cruces site visit
Wednesday, March 25, | NASA Space Projects and Partnerships Branch site visit
Thursday, March 26, | Belen Consolidated Schools site visit
Thursday, March 26, | New Mexico Airport Managers Association Board of Directors site visit
Friday, March 27, | ARES Learning site visit
Saturday, March 28, | NMSU Atomic Aggies rocket launch event
Thursday, April 2, | Hillrise Elementary School STEAM Night (Las Cruces, N.M.)
Thursday, April 9, | New Mexico Tech engineering students visit
Sunday, April 12, | South Central Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives site visit
Tuesday, April 14, | Smith Engineering Company site visit
Friday, April 17, | Elevate New Mexico Energy + Career Expo (at New Mexico State University)
Saturday, April 18, | Legacy of Liberty Airshow outreach (Holloman AFB)
Thursday, April 30, | O'Donnell Intermediate School

Career Fair (Fabens, Texas)
Friday, May 1, | Doña Ana Community College engineering students site visit
Monday, May 4, | Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute visit
Tuesday, May 5, | Film Las Cruces site visit
Saturday, May 9, | Space Race event
Tuesday, May 12, | Albuquerque Talent Development Academy visit
Thursday, May 14, | Conlee Elementary School Career Fair (Las Cruces)
Wednesday, May 20, | Mesilla Valley Community School STEM Outreach (Las Cruces, N.M.)
Thursday, May 21, | Sonoma Elementary School STEM Outreach (Las Cruces)
Thursday, June 4, | Soules Aero-Knowledge Center Aviation Camp site visit
Thursday, June 11, | Soules Aero-Knowledge Center Aviation Camp site visit
Thursday, June 11, | UNM Engineering Student Success Center rocket launches and site visit
Wednesday, June 24, | Cooley Comics STEM outreach (Albuquerque)
Friday, June 26, | New Mexico State Police vehicle photo shoot

OUTREACH AND STEM, EXAMPLES



T or C Holiday Parade



Col. Alvin Drew Space Camp



NMSU Engineering Capstone Projects



International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)



Restart of the Museum of Space History partnership



2025 Open House

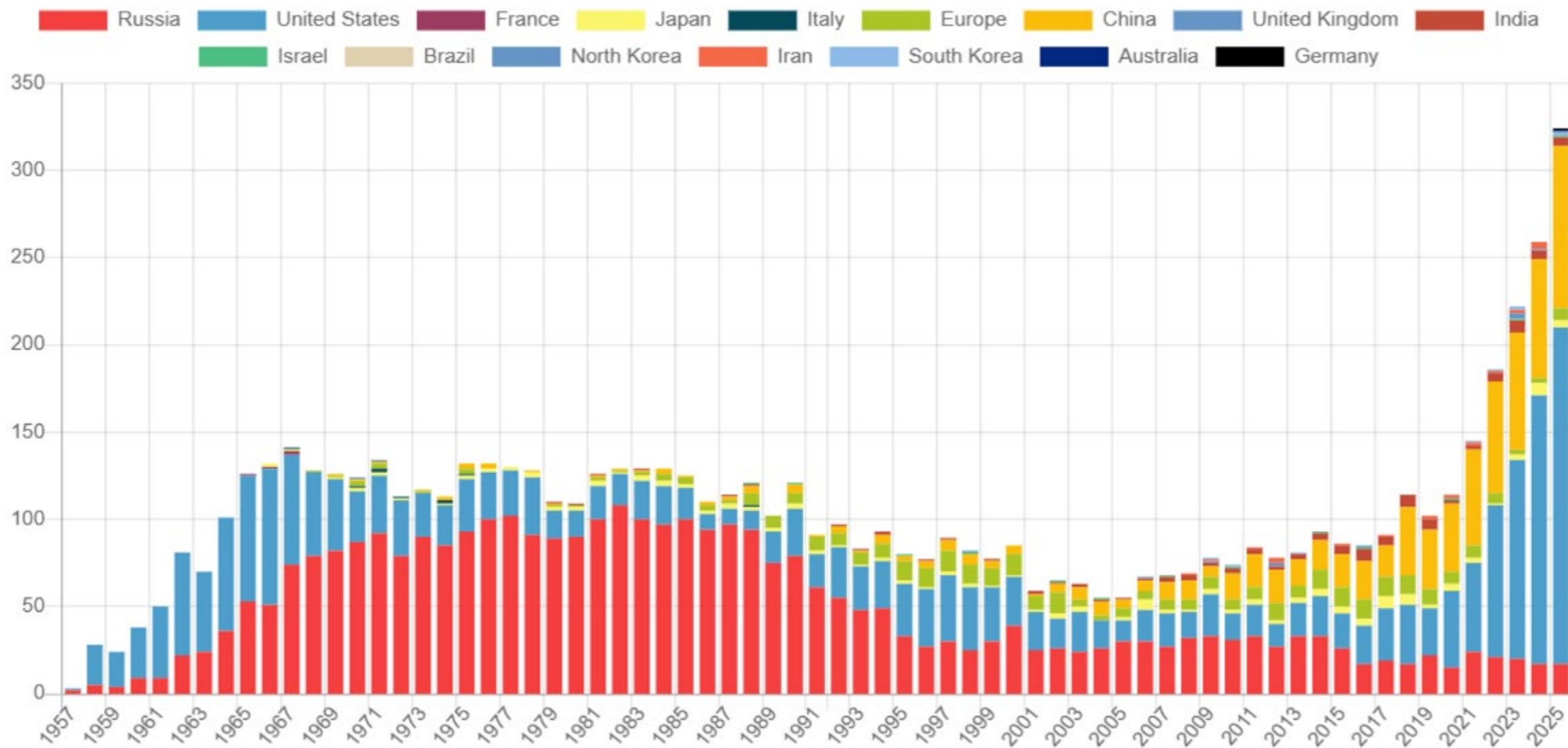
OPEN HOUSE, THIS YEAR IS SEP. 26, 2026



- Community event
- Over 2,200 attendees in 2025
- A chance to be on the concrete apron in front of the Gateway to Space
- Guest speakers include NASA Astronauts
- Up-close view of Virgin Galactic vehicles



Orbital Launches by Year and Country



Strategy – Next Five Years

- Continue working with **Virgin Galactic** to maximize the economic impact of its space tourism flights
- Help **regional economic growth** through collaborations with economic development organizations
- Continue strategic **infrastructure improvements** to ensure Spaceport America remains site-ready for new customers, including non-airspace users such as electromagnetic testing
- Obtain an FAA **orbital reentry license** and advance toward **orbital launch** capability, including future point-to-point flight testing and operations.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships with **White Sands Missile Range** and the **Department of War**, and to position Spaceport America as a **catalyst** for attracting aerospace and defense companies to New Mexico





**SPACEPORT
AMERICA®**

Spaceport America is becoming a statewide aerospace and defense infrastructure asset. To fully realize that opportunity, NMSA must maintain 24/7 operational readiness, complete strategic infrastructure improvements, and add the staff needed to support growing customer demand.

Scott McLaughlin
Executive Director
New Mexico Spaceport Authority

www.spaceportamerica.com
scott.mclaughlin@spaceportamerica.com

*NASA Adaptable Deployable Entry and
Placement Technology (ADEPT) Test
Launched by UP Aerospace in 2018*

VG Space Flights from New Mexico



Flight #	Mission	Date	Cabin / Mission
3	Unity 21	May 22, 2021	2 pilots; NASA research payloads
4	Unity 22	Jul. 11, 2021	4 mission specialists (SRB Flight)
5	Unity 25	May 25, 2023	4 mission specialists
6	Galactic 01	Jun. 29, 2023	3 researchers
7	Galactic 02	Aug. 10, 2023	3 private astronauts
8	Galactic 03	Sep. 8, 2023	3 private astronauts
9	Galactic 04	Oct. 6, 2023	3 private astronauts
10	Galactic 05	Nov. 2, 2023	2 researchers + 1 private astronaut
11	Galactic 06	Jan. 26, 2024	4 private astronauts
12	Galactic 07	Jun. 8, 2024	1 researcher + 3 private astronauts

Flights 1 and 2 were from Mojave, CA