

Technology

Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic Sets June Date for First Commercial Spaceflight

- Branson's space-tourism company to fly as early as June 27
- CEO says previously booked seats to be filled shortly after

By [Loren Grush](#)June 15, 2023, 3:05 PM CDT *Updated on June 16, 2023, 8:56 AM CDT*

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[Virgin Galactic Holdings Inc.](#)'s shares surged the most on record after the space-tourism venture founded by Richard Branson announced that its long-awaited first commercial passenger mission will take off as soon as June 27.

The company is targeting a flight window between June 27 and June 30, and will fly its spaceplane VSS Unity out of Spaceport America in New Mexico. The Galactic 01 crew will conduct experiments in the microgravity environment of space, Virgin Galactic said.

Once the mission is complete, Virgin Galactic plans to follow it up with a second commercial flight, Galactic 02, in early August. The company said it hopes to fly missions monthly moving forward.