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IN THIS ISSUE



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DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Editor's Notebook
- 7 Flight Path
- 9 R&D
- 42 Case Study
- 47 AIAA Bulletin
- 58 Career Opportunities

AD INDEX

BAE Systems	58
Bastion Technologies	inside back
Cadence	inside front
DLR	inside front
dSPACE	16
Luminary Cloud	inside back
Stratolaunch	back cover



8
Aeropuzzler
Could this shockwave be heard?

60
Looking Back
Lockheed F-94 inaugural flight, first images from the Chandra Observatory

10
Q&A
NASA's David Salvagnini on balancing AI oversight with innovation

64
Jahniverse
Stronger rules for deorbiting satellites



BACK TO THE MOON

Comparing the timelines

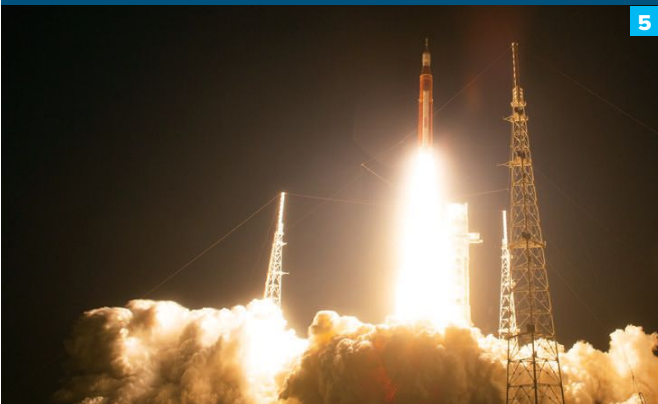
Fifty-five years ago in July, JFK’s commitment to landing “a man on the moon” before the end of the 1960s culminated in Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepping onto the lunar surface in the Apollo 11 mission. Now, NASA plans to return humans to the moon in 2026 under the Artemis program, named after the Greek goddess of the moon and Apollo’s twin. While Apollo ended after six landings, Artemis III is meant to be the first step toward establishing a permanent human presence. Here’s how the timelines compare.



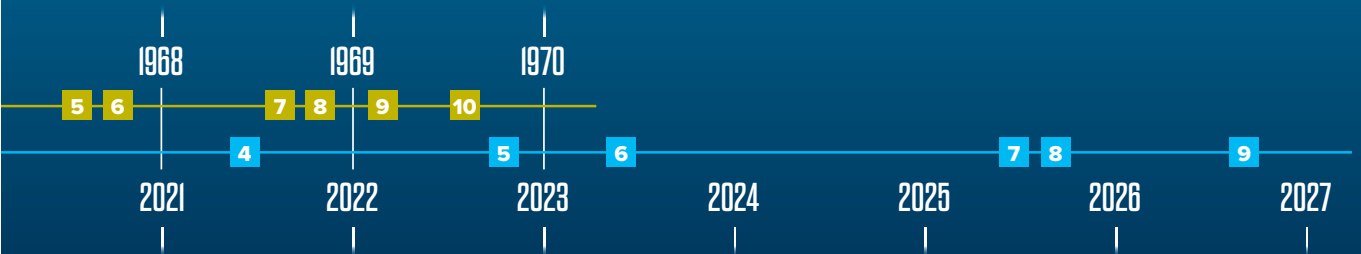
APOLLO 1961-1972



- 1** May 25, 1961 President John F. Kennedy commits to landing “a man” on the moon
- 2** Nov. 7, 1962 NASA awards Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. a \$387.9 million contract to provide the Apollo 11 Lunar Module
- 3** Nov. 7, 1963 NASA conducts a pad abort test with an Apollo capsule test article
- 4** May 28, 1964 Uncrewed Apollo capsule orbits Earth and splashes down
- 5** Nov. 9, 1967 Apollo 4: Saturn V debuts by sending an uncrewed Apollo Command and Service Module to orbit
- 6** Nov. 20, 1967 Apollo 8: Crew for orbital mission around moon announced
- 7** Oct. 11, 1968 Apollo 7: Crew makes 163 orbits around Earth
- 8** Dec. 21, 1968 Apollo 8: Crew orbits moon 10 times
- 9** Jan. 9, 1969 Apollo 11: Crew for inaugural moon landing announced
- 10** July 20, 1969 Apollo 11: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land in the Sea of Tranquility



Graphic by THOR Studio; reporting by Cat Hofacker
Sources: NASA, SpaceX



ARTEMIS 2019-?

1 Dec. 5, 2014 Exploration Flight Test-1: Uncrewed Orion capsule orbits Earth twice and splashes down, despite no national commitment yet to return to the moon

2 March 26, 2019 Vice President Mike Pence announces plan to return to the moon in 2024*

3 July 2, 2019 NASA conducts a launch abort test with an Orion capsule test article

4 April 16, 2021 NASA awards SpaceX a \$2.9 billion contract to provide a Starship lander for the Artemis III landing

5 Nov. 16, 2022 Artemis I: Space Launch System rocket debuts by sending an unoccupied Orion capsule around the moon and home

6 April 3, 2023 Artemis II crew announced

7 2025 SpaceX to test transferring propellant between two Starship spacecraft in low-Earth orbit

8 September 2025 Artemis II: SLS to launch crew around the moon in program's first occupied flight

9 September 2026 Artemis III: Two astronauts, including one woman, are to land in the lunar south pole

*later shifted to 2026