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SPACEX – SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

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SpaceX designs, manufactures and launches advanced rockets and spacecraft. The article provides information about SpaceX foundation and its attaining the ultimate goal of enabling people to colonize Mars and live on other planets.

SpaceX розробляє, виробляє та запускає нові ракети та космічні апарати. У статті представлена інформація про заснування SpaceX та досягнення кінцевої мети – надати можливість людям колонізувати Марс та жити на інших планетах.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp., doing business as SpaceX, is a private American aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company headquartered in Hawthorne, California. It was founded in 2002 by entrepreneur Elon Musk with the goal of reducing space transportation costs and enabling the colonization of Mars. SpaceX has since developed the Falcon launch vehicle family and the Dragon spacecraft family, which both currently deliver payloads into Earth orbit.

In 2001, Elon Musk conceptualized Mars Oasis, a project to land a miniature experimental greenhouse and grow plants on Mars, "so this would be the furthest that life's ever traveled" in an attempt to regain public interest in space exploration and increase the budget of NASA.

On the flight home, Musk realized that he could start a company that could build the affordable rockets he needed. In early 2002, Musk was seeking staff for his new space company, soon to be named SpaceX. Musk approached rocket engineer Tom Mueller (now SpaceX's CTO of Propulsion) and Mueller agreed to work for Musk, and thus SpaceX was born. SpaceX was first headquartered in a warehouse in El Segundo, California. The company has grown rapidly since it was founded in 2002, growing from 160 employees in November 2005 to nearly 6,000 in April 2017.

In 2012, SpaceX became the first private space company to dock with the International Space Station and has done another unique thing – scientific experiments that related to cargo were developed by 15 students. SpaceX is flying numerous cargo resupply missions to the International Space Station, for a total of at least 20 flights under the Commercial Resupply Services contract. In 2016, NASA awarded SpaceX a second version of that contract that will cover a minimum of 6 additional flights from 2019 onward. Dragon was designed from the outset to carry astronauts to space, and as early as 2018. SpaceX will carry crew as part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program. As one of the world's fastest growing provider of launch services. SpaceX has secured over 100 missions to its manifest, representing over \$12 billion in contracts. These include commercial satellite launches as well as NASA and other US Government missions.

SpaceX's achievements include: the first privately funded liquid-propellant rocket to reach orbit (Falcon 1 in 2008); the first privately funded company to successfully launch, orbit, and recover a spacecraft (Dragon in 2010); the first propulsive landing for an orbital rocket (Falcon 9 in 2015); on March 30, 2017, SpaceX became the first enterprise successfully launching and using reusable space rockets of orbital class and others. SpaceX is not only making big spacecrafts in its pursuit of creating a community on Mars. There is no doubt that the SpaceX scientific researches open new horizons for humanity, allowing to travel to other planets and stars.

References

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