

Space net report on the web. # 1 from Paul (WS2N).

We cover many space related topics on the space net report that is a part of the Tech net every Sunday night. What follows is an example of just one of four topics that was on last Sunday June 1, 2014.

Elon Musk the head of Space exploration technology (SPACEX) last Friday unveiled their new crewed spacecraft the Dragon V2. This spacecraft will first fly to the International Space Station on top of the Falcon 9 rocket also built by SpaceX. Here are some of the features of this commercially built crewed reusable up to ten times spacecraft.

The DRAGON V2 will carry up to 7 astronauts.

It will DOCK not berth, autonomously to the International space station.

The Draco maneuvering engines on both Dragon spacecraft, the V1 and the V2 have 100 pounds of thrust.

There are 18 Draco thrusters for maneuvering on the Dragon V1 as well as the new Dragon V2.



The Super Draco engines have 16,000 pounds of thrust. That is 160 times more powerful than the Draco maneuvering rockets. There are 8 Super Draco rockets on the new crewed spacecraft. If 2 fail, no problem they can still land on land safely with 6 motors working. They can also restart and also be throttled.

The Super Dracos are used for a propulsive landing. So this craft will land on land, and according to Elon Musk it can land with the precision of a helicopter.

Parachutes are used for a backup in case of engine failure.

The new PICA 3 heat shield is reusable.

There is a door that slides up.

There are 4 - 17. inch monitor touch screens mounted vertically. If one fails no problem, there is redundancy using 2 sets of screens for controlling all aspects of the spacecraft. If all the screens fail there are manual controls in the middle of the console to save the day.



The Dragon will first be flown from Cape Canaveral in Florida. NASA thinks that SpaceX will be ready by 2017. But I think SpaceX might have a test flight by 2016.

Elon Musk took out a 20 year lease on launch complex pad 39a at the Cape, meanwhile SpaceX already has another launch pad that they control in Florida to launch cargo to the ISS flying there

Dragon V1 cargo vehicle. They also have another launch pad at Vandenberg Air Force base in California.

So to learn more about this topic or other on going space missions you can listen to the tech net.

Or better yet you can ask questions ON THE AIR as long as you have an amateur radio licence. 73

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