



VIRINGALACTIC
ACCREDITED SPACE AGENT

Elegant Resorts

Virgin Galactic and Elegant Resorts presents

The Year of the Spaceship

The design of the new, environmentally benign, space launch system based on the X Prize winning technology of SpaceShipOne was recently unveiled in New York. Elegant Resorts is the sole appointed ASA (Accredited Sales Agent) in the UK and Russia, and several of their sales team were in New York to see the new design first-hand.

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The construction of the WhiteKnightTwo (WK2) mothership, or carrier aircraft, is now very close to completion at Scaled Composites in Mojave, California and is expected to begin flight testing in the summer of 2008. It is the world's largest, all carbon composite aircraft; it has a unique high altitude lift capacity – capable of launching SpaceShipTwo and its eight astronauts, into sub-orbital space flight. The WK2 mothership is powered by four Pratt and Whitney PW308A engines which are amongst the most powerful, economic and efficient engines available. The WK2 mothership has also been designed to be capable of lifting other payload and launching it into space. Both Scaled Composites and Virgin Galactic believe the system has sufficient lifting capability to launch unmanned vehicles designed to carry small satellites and other scientific payload into low earth orbit. While the first priority for Virgin Galactic is developing the market for human spaceflight, the Company is already assessing the potential for unmanned launch capability.

SpaceShipTwo is now nearly 60% complete. It incorporates both the lessons learned from the SpaceShipOne programme and the market research conducted by Virgin Galactic into requirements future astronauts have for their space flight experience. Whilst the two vehicles have been under construction, the

cadre of future astronauts has continued to grow to well in excess of 200 individuals, with around 85,000 registrations of interest to fly. The deposit base now exceeds \$30m representing more than \$45m of future income to the fledgling spaceline.

Astronaut orientation for spaceflight is progressing well and already 80 of SpaceShipTwo's first passengers have been through medical assessment and centrifuge training at the NASTAR facility in Philadelphia. During their G Force acclimatisation programme, the participants were spun to 3.5GZ (head to toe) and 6GX (front to back) to simulate the actual flight profile of SpaceShipTwo during a 110km (68 miles) apogee sub-orbital flight.

Additionally, members of the Elegant Resorts team recently experienced the closest thing possible to a sub-orbital spaceflight during a simulated trip into space in NASTAR Center's Space Training Simulator, the STS-400. During the experience the team achieved G-forces upwards of 3Gs during their take-off and re-entry simulation, giving them not only valuable Virgin Galactic product knowledge but also first-hand experience that will enable them to sell the NASTAR Center Air and Space Adventure Programs, including astronaut training packages, to their clients. Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Galactic and Burt Rutan, CEO of Scaled Composites presided at the unveiling – Sir Richard said 'the designs of both the mothership and the new spaceship are absolutely beautiful and surpass any expectations for the future of commercial spaceflight that we had when first registering the name Virgin Galactic in 1999'.

In addition to this unveil, a model of the final design for Spaceport America was also on show. Situated in Sierra County, New Mexico, this will be the world's first custom designed private spaceport. It has been designed with environmental considerations to the fore, and its highly innovative structure will use a combination of geo-thermal, solar and wind power to create a very low carbon footprint. Virgin Galactic is also looking at the opportunities of operating from locations worldwide and is already investigating the feasibility of operating from Spaceport Sweden.

Further announcements regarding the progress of the launch system, development of its markets, the test flying programme and start of commercial operations at Spaceport America will be made in due course.

Elegant Resorts are taking bookings on
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Backgrounder for Press

HISTORY:

- 1961 – Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space
- 1969 – Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the moon
- 1996 – Original plans for the Ansari X prize announced. \$10m for the first non-government human space flight.
- 1999 – The name Virgin Galactic is first registered as Virgin began discussions with several fledgling private space ventures with a view to investment in the sector.
- 2001 – Paul Allen's vision leads to the creation of SpaceShipOne by legendary aviation designer, Burt Rutan.
- 2004 – 21st June, the first manned space flight by a private, non-Government programme, Mike Melvill flying SpaceShipOne.
- 2004 – 27th September, Sir Richard Branson and Burt Rutan announce plans for the world's first commercial manned space operator – Virgin Galactic
- 2004 – 29th September, Mike Melvill pilots the first successful X Prize qualifying flight reaching 330,000 feet.
- 2004 – 4th October, Brian Binnie pilots the final X Prize flight reaching a record 368,000 feet. The X Prize is won and Virgin Galactic is born.

To date only 450 people have been to space (FAI Definition).

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY :

- The new Virgin spaceships (SpaceShipTwo / SS2) is based on Burt Rutan designed SpaceShipOne, X Prize winner – a tried and tested prototype.
- Composite construction – very light and very strong.
- Two stage horizontal launch concept – mothership "WhiteKnightTwo" and Spaceship SS2.
- Fully pressurised cabin, double skin construction
- Extremely safe and controllable hybrid rocket motor
- Unique wing - feathering technology to slow and control re-entry ("Care-Free Re-entry")
- Unpowered (glide) runway landing.

CABIN DESIGN:

- Each flight will carry 6 passengers and two pilots.
- Aeroplane environment
- SS2 Cabin will be fully pressurised at all stages of the flight.
- Passengers will be allowed to leave their seats and experience the joys of weightlessness.
- Reclining seats to minimise effects of G forces on re-entry
- Every passenger will have access to large windows which will allow them to enjoy the amazing views – around 1000 miles in any direction.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

- WhiteKnightTwo (WK2) mothership climbs to 50,000 feet, carrying SS2.
- On release, the rocket motor fires and spaceship accelerates in a vertical climb to nearly four times the speed of sound
- Maximum altitude will be at least 110km
- Wings feather to allow gentle re-entry to earth's atmosphere
- Spaceship wings reconfigure after re-entry
- Glides and returns to point of departure
- Astronauts receive their "wings"
- Flight will last around 2 hours including a period of weightlessness and preceded by 3 days of pre-flight training.

LAUNCH SITE:

- Initial launch site likely to be Mojave in California, USA
- Operation will then headquarter and fly from the purpose built Spaceport America in New Mexico, USA.
- Future plans to "tour" spaceflights to locations across the globe, including UK, Sweden and Australia.

PRE LAUNCH TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES:

- Three days enjoyable preparation – The Virgin Galactic Experience – to ensure that future astronauts can savour each second of their space flight.
- The interior of WK2 will replicate the SS2 interior allowing G force acclimatisation and safety training to take place on board WK2 pre the space flight itself.
- Will take place in the US close to or at the spaceport
- All included in the price

MEDICAL AND AGE REQUIREMENTS:

- General good health required
- Specific screening and medical checks required before flight
- Position on flying minors - tbc
- No upper age limit but subject to health requirements

TICKET PRICE:

- The initial ticket price stands at \$200,000
- Prices will fall over time to allow more to fly

HOW MANY APPLICANTS:

- Approximately 65,000 have registered with Virgin Galactic as potential astronauts, from 125 different countries

MAKING A RESERVATION:

- Call Elegant Resorts Space Team on 01244 897 003.

SAFETY:

- Horizontal launch at altitude – not vertical launch from ground
- Strength of construction
- Benign and controllable rocket motor propellants
- Fully pressurised cabin
- Two pilots
- Simplicity and effectiveness of wing feathering for re-entry
- Spaceship and Virgin Galactic operation will be regulated and licensed by the US Federal Aviation Authority
- Rigorous and exhaustive testing regime before launch.
- Reputation and airline/train operational experience of Virgin will guarantee safety is always the first priority.

ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS:

- Ground to 50,000 feet carried by special carrier aircraft using the latest in efficient jet engine technology.
- Air launch means short rocket burn of approximately 45 seconds within the atmosphere.
- Lightweight composite construction minimises power output.
- Re-usable spacecraft – no space debris or wastage.
- New Mexico Spaceport planned to be powered by renewable energy sources.

ASTRONAUTS:

Founders

- First 100 fare paying VG astronauts
- Must pay the full ticket price (\$200,000) up front
- Seat allocation to be decided by means of a grand draw to be held near the start of commercial operations.
- Reservation list for this group now closed.

Pioneers

- The next 400
- Likely to be amongst the first 1,000 humans to have left the planet
- Initial deposit of between \$175,000 - \$100,000 required
- Seat allocation is on a first come, first served basis within Pioneer deposit tiers.

Voyagers

- Will fly after Pioneers
- Initial deposit of 10% of ticket price required to secure a seat
- Seats allocated on a first come, first served basis

REGULATIONS:

Early discussions with the United States Administration and regulatory bodies have been extremely positive and all the necessary submissions are underway to facilitate smooth progress through the construction phase, and Virgin Galactic have received enormous encouragement and support from all sides.

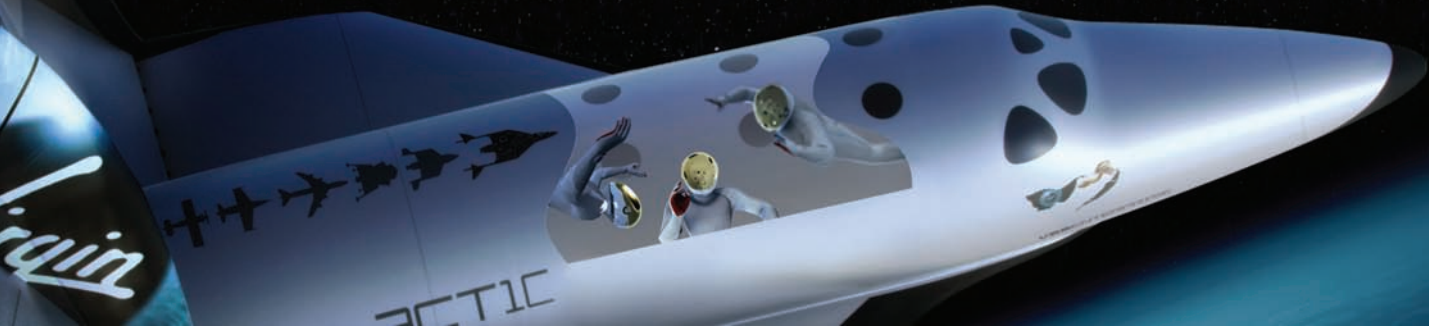


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Taking A Spin In Space

The Elegant Resorts Team Receive Space Flight Training



Virgin Galactic hosts forum at The NASTAR® Center and holds private SpaceShipTwo model unveiling for the world's only Accredited Space Agents.

LONDON 13 MARCH 2008

For Nick Jackson, David Atkin & Justine Pitt of Elegant Resorts, an Accredited Space Agent for Virgin Galactic, the dream of space travel is one step closer to reality. Last month, members of the Elegant Resorts Space Team attended the inaugural Virgin Galactic Accredited Space Agent (ASA) Forum at Philadelphia's National Aerospace Training and Research (NASTAR®) Center, for the world's first space agents. The forum attracted 46 ASAs from 14 different countries, all of whom have been hand-selected and trained by Virgin Galactic and are among the first and only travel advisors allowed to reserve seats aboard Virgin Galactic's suborbital space flights.

During the two-day Forum, Nick, David & Justine experienced the closest thing possible to a sub-orbital spaceflight during a mock trip into space in NASTAR Center's Space Training Simulator the STS-400, not only giving them valuable Virgin Galactic product knowledge but also first hand experience that will enable them to sell the NASTAR Center Air and Space Adventure Programs including astronaut training packages to their clients. All three of the team proved themselves to have the right stuff, achieving G-forces upwards of 3Gs during their take-off and re-entry simulation. Elegant Resorts are now taking reservations for the NASTAR Center Air and Space Adventure Programs including the astronaut training packages.

Nick Jackson said 'I always like to offer my clients first hand experience of the products I offer them, however I wasn't sure how to do that with a Virgin Galactic flight. Thanks to NASTAR Center's amazing sub-orbital spaceflight simulation I'm now able to describe to my clients what their trip to space will be like and offer them the same experience so they can try before they buy!'

Following the Forum, Nick along with his fellow ASAs continued on to New York for a private ASA unveiling of Virgin Galactic's spacecraft models. During the history-

making event, Virgin Group Founder Sir Richard Branson and legendary aerospace designer and winner of the Ansari X PRIZE, Burt Rutan, revealed the new designs for SpaceShipTwo and its launching aircraft, WhiteKnightTwo.

Justine Pitt said 'Seeing Sir Richard Branson and Burt Rutan unveil these history making designs first hand was an incredible experience. All of us felt a sense of being part of something that is hugely important to the future of our planet'.

During the unveiling, Sir Richard Branson acknowledged the efforts of all ASAs who are serving as space-travel ambassadors as well as the worldwide sales force for his product. Although ASAs have only been active for a year, they already account for 30% of Virgin Galactic reservations.

In July 2007, Virgin Galactic named Elegant Resorts an Accredited Space Agency. Says Carolyn Wincer, Head of Astronaut Sales for Virgin Galactic, "It is immensely important to our product and brand to have the right professionals associated with Virgin Galactic and we are delighted to have Elegant Resorts working with us on our goal of making a successful industry out of space travel, and one that has a positive impact on our planet."

ABOUT ELEGANT RESORTS

Elegant Resorts pride themselves on ensuring that dreams are realised, and where every need and whim is taken care effortlessly and with the ultimate in style. Attention to detail, and personal experience by the sales team help to provide a bespoke service and the ability to install the necessary confidence; as well as create the excitement required to book a journey into space.

ABOUT VIRGIN GALACTIC

Virgin Galactic is a company established by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group to undertake the challenge of developing space tourism for everybody. It will own

and operate privately built spaceships, modeled on the history-making SpaceShipOne craft. These spaceships will allow affordable sub-orbital space tourism for the first time in our history. Virgin Galactic will run as a business with the sole purpose of making space travel more and more affordable to people throughout the world. They will reinvest funds made over the first few years back into the business striving constantly to lower prices.

ABOUT NASTAR CENTER

NASTAR® Center (www.NASTARcenter.com), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Environmental Tectonics Corporation (AMEX: ETC), houses state-of-the-art equipment and professional staff to support the training and research needs of the aerospace community, including military aviation (fixed and rotary wing), civil aviation (fixed and rotary wing), space travel (government and private) and research support and data collection. NASTAR® Center's equipment and programs are highly modular and flexible and can accommodate a wide range of aerospace training and research requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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For Virgin Galactic images please go to www.virgingalactic.com/pressftp

For NASTAR Center images please go to www.nastarcenter.com/press