JUNE 26, 2023

Virgin Galactic Announces *'Galactic 01'* Crew Onboard the First Commercial Spaceflight

Italian Air Force and National Research Council Crew To Conduct Scientific Research Experiments

'Galactic 01' Target Flight Date is June 29, 2023

This historic mission is Virgin Galactic's first commercial spaceflight and represents a new era in government funded commercial human-tended research missions. The three-person crew from the Italian Air Force and National Research Council of Italy will board VSS Unity for a 90-minute flight to conduct a series of suborbital science experiments. VSS Unity's cabin will be transformed into a suborbital science lab to provide the environment for rack mounted payloads and for the crew to interact with wearable payloads.

MICHAEL COLGLAZIER
CEO of Virgin Galactic

***'Galactic 01'* is our first commercial spaceflight, and we're honored to have been selected by the Italian Air Force and the National Research Council to support their first space research mission, *'Virtute 1'*. Virgin Galactic's research missions will usher in a new era of repeatable and reliable access to space for government and research institutions for years to come.**

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- Conduct 13 human-tended and autonomous experiments which examine biomedicine thermo-fluid dynamics, and the development of innovative and sustainable materials in microgravity conditions.

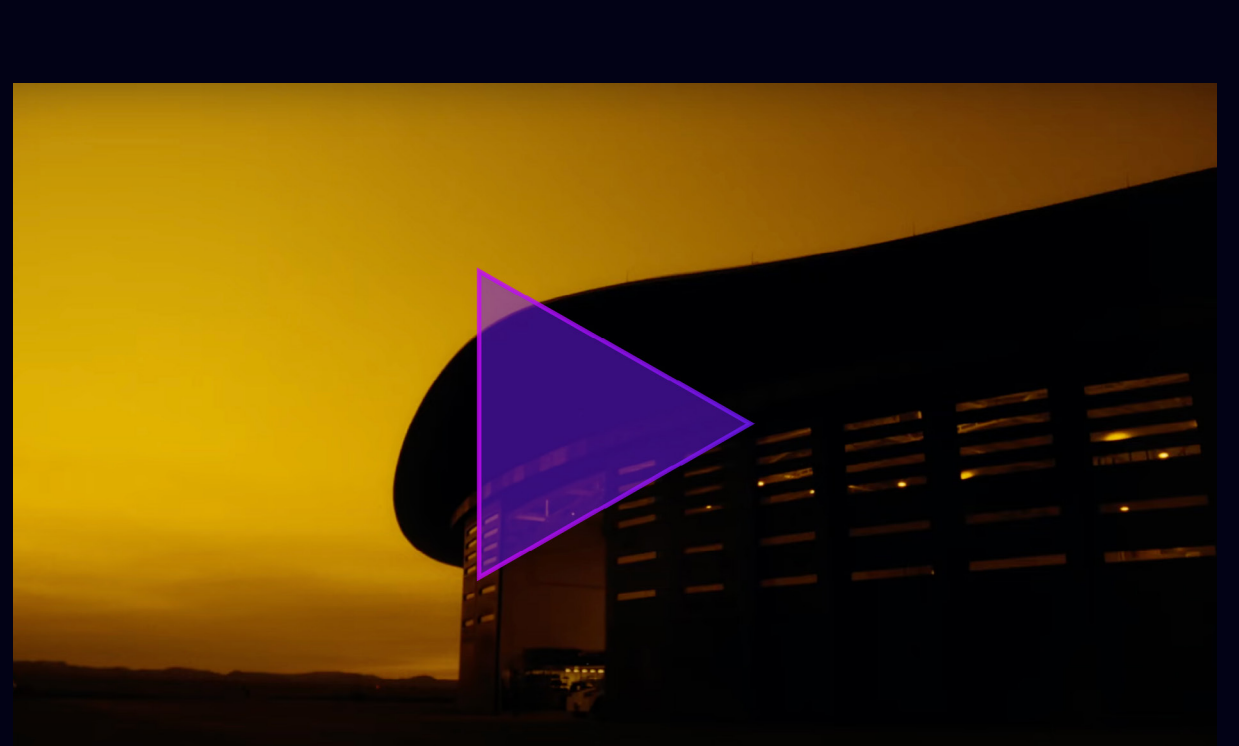
  Read about all 13 experiments on board here.

- Collect data through wearable payloads and sensors, and by autonomous payloads mounted in the cabin on Virgin Galactic's payload rack system.

Learn more about Virgin Galactic's spaceflight platform and microgravity research flight capabilities.

LEARN MORE

MEET THE CREW



COL. WALTER VILLADEI

Italian Air Force

- In 2021, Col. Villadei started his professional astronaut training at NASA through Axiom Space and in 2022 qualified as the Ax-2 mission backup pilot. He performed multiple extreme analog training activities including centrifuge, parabolic flight, NOLS, survival training, flight training and scuba diving.
- Qualified on Soyuz, ISS systems, and Orlan for EVA activities.
- Col. Villadei is the *'Virtute 1'* mission commander. He will be tending to the rack-mounted payloads and wearing a state-of-the-art smart suit to measure his biometric data and physiological responses. He is in charge of the research execution and this spaceflight is part of his astronaut training for a future orbital space mission to the ISS.

ASTRONAUT **008**

LT. COL. ANGELO LANDOLFI

Physician, Italian Air Force

ASTRONAUT **009**

- Undergraduate degrees in medicine & surgery, diving & hyperbaric medicine, and forensic medicine.
- Master's degrees in public health and preventative medicine, and in international military strategic studies.
- Ph.D. in Legal Medicine and Forensic Science.
- Trained as a crew surgeon as part of Cosmonaut training program and is a trained flight test surgeon.
- EASA Aeromedical Examiner and CRM trainer.
- Lt. Col. Landolfi plans to conduct tests on *'Galactic 01'* to measure cognitive performance in microgravity and to investigate how certain liquids and solids mix in microgravity.

PANTALEONE CARLUCCI

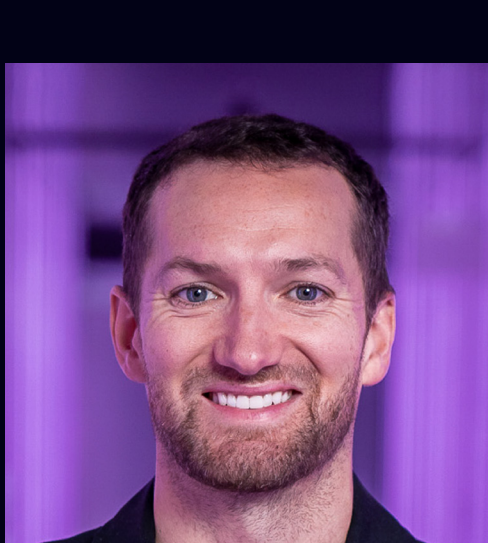
Engineer, National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

- Technical engineer and pilot that has worked at the CNR for more than 8 years in the fields of engineering of scientific instrumentation on aircraft platforms, with a focus on the implementation of payloads.
- In charge of technical coordination of strategic projects on stratospheric platforms and air launch.
- Member of various coordination committees set up under framework agreements that the CNR has signed with companies operating in the space and aerospace sectors.
- On the *'Galactic 01'* mission Carlucci will be conducting tests that involve wearing multiple sensors that examine heart rate, brain function and other human performance metrics during spaceflight and in microgravity.

ASTRONAUT **010**

COLIN BENNETT

Astronaut Instructor, Virgin Galactic



ASTRONAUT **003**

- Colin is the lead astronaut instructor carrying out all training and preparation for the Italian Air Force mission and will fly with the crew to assess the research flight experience during the mission.
- Colin is Astronaut 003, who joined Sir Richard Branson on Virgin Galactic's first fully crewed mission, Unity 22.
- Previously served several roles in Mission Control including Flight Director.

READ ALL ASTRONAUT BIOS

MEET THE PILOTS

Learn more about our pilots here

VSS UNITY

MIKE
MASUCCI

COMMANDER

FLYING SINCE
1982

NO. OF TYPES FLOWN
80+

MAIN TYPES FLOWN
U-2, F-16, T-38, Citation X

TOTAL EXPERIENCE
10,000+ Hours

SPACEFLIGHTS
4th

US Air Force Lt Col (Retired)

NICOLA
PECILE

PILOT

FLYING SINCE
1991

NO. OF TYPES FLOWN
170

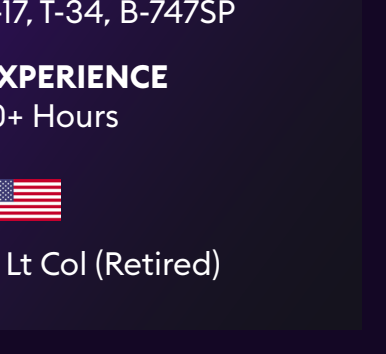
MAIN TYPES FLOWN
Tornado FMK.3 ADV, NH-500E

TOTAL EXPERIENCE
7,700+ Hours

SPACEFLIGHTS
1st

Former Italian Air Force Lt Col

VMS EVE



KELLY
LATIMER

COMMANDER

FLYING SINCE
1989

NO. OF TYPES FLOWN
50+

MAIN TYPES FLOWN
T-38, C-141, C-17, T-34, B-747SP

TOTAL EXPERIENCE
6,700+ Hours

US Air Force Lt Col (Retired)

JAMEEL
JANJUA

PILOT

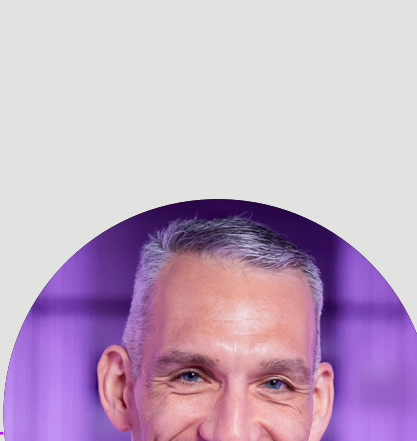
FLYING SINCE
1995

NO. OF TYPES FLOWN
60+

MAIN TYPES FLOWN
CF-18, F-16, Tornado GR4, F-15, Learjet

TOTAL EXPERIENCE
4,000+ Hours

Canadian Air Force Major (Retired)



SIRISHA BANDLA
Vice President, Government Affairs and Research Operations

We're proud to be facilitating international collaboration between spacefaring nations and industry pioneers to expand human knowledge. This flight will showcase our distinctive spaceflight system, which allows researchers to fly with their experiments, and our capacity to offer regular access to space for the science and technology community.

COLONEL WALTER VILLADEI
'Virtute 1' Mission Commander

VIRTUTE 1 mission is the first Italian and European suborbital flight. A breakthrough and pathfinder mission, conceived and designed with Italian National Research Council and Virgin Galactic to test the versatility of suborbital spaceflight for scientific and technological research. We are flying payloads from multiple disciplines in one mission and are utilizing the entire flight profile to collect invaluable data. Suborbital spaceflight will revolutionize aeronautics transportation in the future, expanding access to space for a much larger community, and advance the development of scientific research.

Virgin GALACTIC
LIVE

GALACTIC 01

Virgin Galactic will share a global livestream of the spaceflight. Audiences around the world are invited to participate virtually in the *'Galactic 01'* spaceflight and see first-hand the extraordinary experience Virgin Galactic is creating for research customers.

The livestream will be available to watch on **VirginGalactic.com**

It is expected to begin at

9:00 am MT / 11:00 am ET

3:00 pm GMT / 5:00 pm CET

on the day of the flight.

PRESS FTP ASSETS

Please visit the Virgin Galactic website for the full press release and further information.

You can download all press materials from the Virgin Galactic Press FTP including:

- *'Galactic 01'* crew bios and profile shots
- Research fact sheet
- Pilot bios
- Previous flight images and b-roll

Access here: (https://pressftp.virgingalactic.com/virgingalactic/press)

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About Virgin Galactic

Virgin Galactic is an aerospace and space travel company, pioneering human spaceflight for private individuals and researchers with its advanced air and space vehicles. It has developed a spaceflight system designed to connect the world to the love, wonder and awe created by space travel and to offer customers a transformative experience. You can find more information at https://www.virgingalactic.com/.