

Space Travel

We have all heard about space travel and read countless information about how accessible it has become which is why these days a lot of young people dream about becoming an astronaut or at least traveling beyond earth. I'm sure we have all wondered what it would be like to travel to the moon or Mars.

What is space travel actually for? Space travel has a lot of objectives for science, for the military, and for communication. It's not just to be able to say, 'We've been to the moon'. There's more to it. It's an advance for the whole of humanity, like Armstrong said, "One small step for man. A giant leap for mankind."

Today we are going to talk about the space career and the numerous companies that are improving the technology to get us there and doing research on the conditions of life on other planets so that man can one day travel to Mars or even live there. So being in a space career means more than just riding in a space shuttle. It's forming part of a community of scientists primarily, who are researchers, physicists, climatologists, mathematicians and other careers we can't even imagine. They're interested in the well-being of mankind. They gather the information they find and analyze it to come to conclusions about the earth and the planets.

One of the most important and evident advances made thanks to space travel, has been the power of communication. There have been countless trips to space we have never even heard about. And on each trip they leave satellites or improve the ones there so that we, here, have better communication. The satellites are also equipped with cameras that have shown us more about the universe and its behaviour. Plus those cameras are used to take satellite pictures of earth, especially changes in the climate. They have helped scientists conclude that climate change is a real problem. For the military, the advances of space travel has helped win wars which is why the current president of the United States has signed the inclusion of a 'space force' into the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act which means that the US armed forces now have control of space.

There are many companies competing against each other to be the first at achieving something related to space, like the US has always competed with Russia. These companies work at creating the best technology, the best parts for space missions and the best people to do the job. There are many countries with their own space programs. The US has four, including Nasa and SpaceX. Russia, Britain, China, Japan, India and 17 European countries also have their own programs.

One of the people who has the most impact in this industry is Elon Musk. He is a business magnate, an industrial designer and a philanthropist. He is 49 and was born in

1971 in Pretoria. In addition, he is the CEO of SpaceX, Tesla Inc, founder of The Boring Company and co-founder of PayPal, Hyperloop, SolarCity, Neuralink and OpenAI. Currently, he is the richest person in the world.

At the age of 10, he learned to program and sold his first videogame, Blaster, which was a game about space. He sold it for \$500. In 1992, he won a scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania to study economics and physics. After he received his bachelor's degrees, he entered into three areas where he felt they had problems. They were the internet, renewable energy and space. Nowadays, he has 7 children and he is married to Claire Elise Boucher, who is a singer.

Recently, he managed to send two people into space in a spaceship called "Dragon Endeavour". Also, he presented a chip that measures brain activity. In the future, he expects that man will be allowed to play videogames or drive a car with his mind. Besides that, some people think that it will solve some medical problems like paralysis or neurological problems.

In 2020, he sent 895 satellites into space and now he started the open beta of his new internet service "Starlink".

To sum up, Elon Musk is one of the most powerful people in this world and he has many companies with which he wants to change the world.

The company that concerns us right now is SpaceX, dedicated to space exploration and, consequently, to the development of aerospace engineering. Elon Musk's goal in creating this company in 2002 was to reduce the costs of space travel, facilitating the safe arrival of mankind on Mars.

Thanks to Musk's entrepreneurial and visionary mind, SpaceX has been responsible for what are, perhaps, the greatest advancements in aerospace technology development of the last 50 years, and all at relatively low cost. Some of these advances include: the construction of the first privately owned liquid fuel rocket (Falcon 1), the first private company to launch into orbit and recover a spacecraft, and also the first to send a spacecraft to the ISS (both achievements with the Dragon capsule), the first orbital rocket powered landing and subsequent reuse (both with the Falcon 9), and the first private company to send astronauts to the ISS (aboard the Dragon 2). It also has the largest constellation of orbiting satellites (Starlink).

In 2016, Elon Musk introduced the Starship project, which will be a system of interspace and private launches. The spacecraft used will be capable of performing various flights, both in space and in low orbit. The spacecraft will be reusable, significantly reducing production and launch costs.

Elon Musk is a great visionist and enthusiast of space exploration, so much so that he founded his own company aimed at reducing costs and facilitating the advancement of space engineering, SpaceX. A company that has created a before and

after in the development of technology for space travel, focusing on economic accessibility. Along with the rest of the space agencies, both private and governmental, a second space race has started with its sights on Mars. We just have to wait and admire what this new era brings us.

Gracias a las queridas Profes de Inglés: Ileana Spano Jaliff y Samira Ahmed