

Building the Lynx spacecraft

October 8 2014, by Elizabeth Howell



XCOR engineer Brandon Litt inspects a Lynx wing spar. Credit: XCOR Aerospace / Mike Masee

Ready, set ... launch? That's what XCOR is hoping to accomplish as the company continues building its Lynx spacecraft prototype.

Hot off the news that XCOR is partnering with Mars One to offer joyrides in space, the company announced this week that it has mated the cockpit to the fuselage on the prototype—which they classify as a major milestone in construction. Check out pictures of the team at work

below.

"The team at XCOR has been working a long time to reach this goal," stated XCOR CEO Jeff Greason. "We always knew there would be a day when we could see a spacecraft forming in our hangar. Today is that day. These pictures show our ongoing journey to make [commercial space flight](#) a reality."

The company is also testing Lynx's propulsion system and is starting to bond other components together to the spacecraft prototype, such as the landing gear.

The company plans to start tests on the Lynx Mark I prototype in 2015, with the Mark II (the production version) starting flights at a yet-to-be-announced date. XCOR's major competitor in [space tourism](#) is Virgin Galactic, which has done several powered test flights of SpaceShipTwo and is also hoping to start test flights shortly.



View of the Lynx cockpit, fuselage and strakes. Credit: XCOR Aerospace / Mike Masee



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Source: [Universe Today](#)

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