

Goodyear christening 2nd airship in fleet replacing blimps

October 21 2016



This Oct. 6, 2016 photo shows Goodyear's newest airship, Wingfoot Two, in Mogadore, Ohio. Goodyear is officially welcoming Wingfoot Two, the second airship in the fleet replacing its famous blimps. The first of the new models, Wingfoot One was launched in 2014. From the ground, the cigar-shaped replacements look much like their predecessors. Though they still use helium and bear the blue-and-gold Goodyear logo, they aren't technically blimps because they have a fixed structure holding the balloon in place. (Malcolm Porter/WEWS-TV via AP)

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From the ground, the cigar-shaped replacements look much like their predecessors. Though they still use helium and bear the blue-and-gold Goodyear logo, they aren't technically blimps because they have a fixed structure holding the balloon in place. They also are longer, have a third engine, make less noise and are more maneuverable.

The first of the new models, Wingfoot One, launched in 2014 and is based in Pompano Beach, Florida. Wingfoot Two was finished in March and already was used for some event coverage ahead of Friday's christening in Akron, where Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. is based.

Wingfoot Two eventually will be based in Carson, California, where the last of the previous blimps has been operating, Goodyear [airship](#) spokeswoman Emily Cropper said.

Goodyear expects to retire the remaining blimp, the Spirit of Innovation, next year and start building the third vehicle in the new fleet, she said.

The other blimps from the old fleet, the Spirit of Goodyear and the Spirit of America, were previously retired.

Akron native Savannah James, the wife of Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James, is the official christener for Wingfoot Two.



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Citation: Goodyear christening 2nd airship in fleet replacing blimps (2016, October 21) retrieved 12 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-10-goodyear-christening-2nd-airship-fleet.html>

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