

Highest bid for Blue Origin's maiden voyage \$2.6 million and climbing

May 19 2021



The Jeff Bezos owned firm is targeting July 20 for the launch of its reusable suborbital rocket system New Shepard from its West Texas facility, the first time it will carry humans after 15 successful uncrewed tests.

An online bid for a seat aboard Blue Origin's first crewed spaceflight was going for \$2.6 million on Wednesday afternoon as the company prepares to blast off this summer.

Would-be customers have until June 10 before the current phase ends, and the company will hold a live final round on June 12, with the proceeds going to the company's charitable foundation.

Jeff Bezos' [space venture](#) is targeting July 20 for the launch of its reusable suborbital rocket system New Shepard from its facility in west Texas.

It will be the first time the company, founded in 2000, will carry humans after 15 successful uncrewed tests of the vehicle.

The trip will last a total of ten minutes, four of which passengers will spend above the Karman line that marks the recognized boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space.

After lift-off, the capsule separates from its booster, then spends four minutes at an altitude exceeding 60 miles (100 kilometers), during which time up to six people on board experience weightlessness and can observe the curvature of Earth from space.

The booster lands autonomously on a pad two miles from the launch site, and the capsule floats back to the surface with three large parachutes that slow it down to about a mile an hour when it lands.

The auction began with sealed bidding on May 5, with the first unsealed bid posted Wednesday morning, \$1.4 million.

The figure is being updated as it climbs, and a spokesperson for the company said that more than 5,200 people from 136 countries had

participated.

Virgin Galactic, the [company](#) founded by British billionaire Richard Branson, is also developing a spacecraft capable of sending clients on suborbital flights. Some 600 people have booked flights, costing \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Elon Musk's SpaceX is planning orbital flights that would cost millions of dollars and send people much further into [space](#).

© 2021 AFP

Citation: Highest bid for Blue Origin's maiden voyage \$2.6 million and climbing (2021, May 19) retrieved 6 August 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2021-05-highest-blue-maiden-voyage-million.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.