

Musk hopes "Mechazilla" will catch and assemble the Starship and Super Heavy boosters for rapid reuse

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Credit: SpaceX

In January of 2021, Elon Musk announced SpaceX's latest plan to increase the number of flights they can mount by drastically reducing turnaround time. The key to this was a new launch tower that would "catch" first stage boosters after they return to Earth. This would forego the need to install landing legs on future Super Heavy boosters and potentially future Starship returning to Earth.



Musk shared this idea in response to a <u>tweet</u> made by an animator who goes by the Twitter handle Erc X, who asked if his latest render (of a Starship landing next to its launch <u>tower</u>) was accurate. As usual, Musk responded via Twitter, saying:

"We're going to try to catch the Super Heavy Booster with the launch tower arm, using the grid fins to take the load... Saves mass & cost of legs & enables immediate repositioning of <u>booster</u> on to launch mount—ready to refly in under an hour."

Mechazilla

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