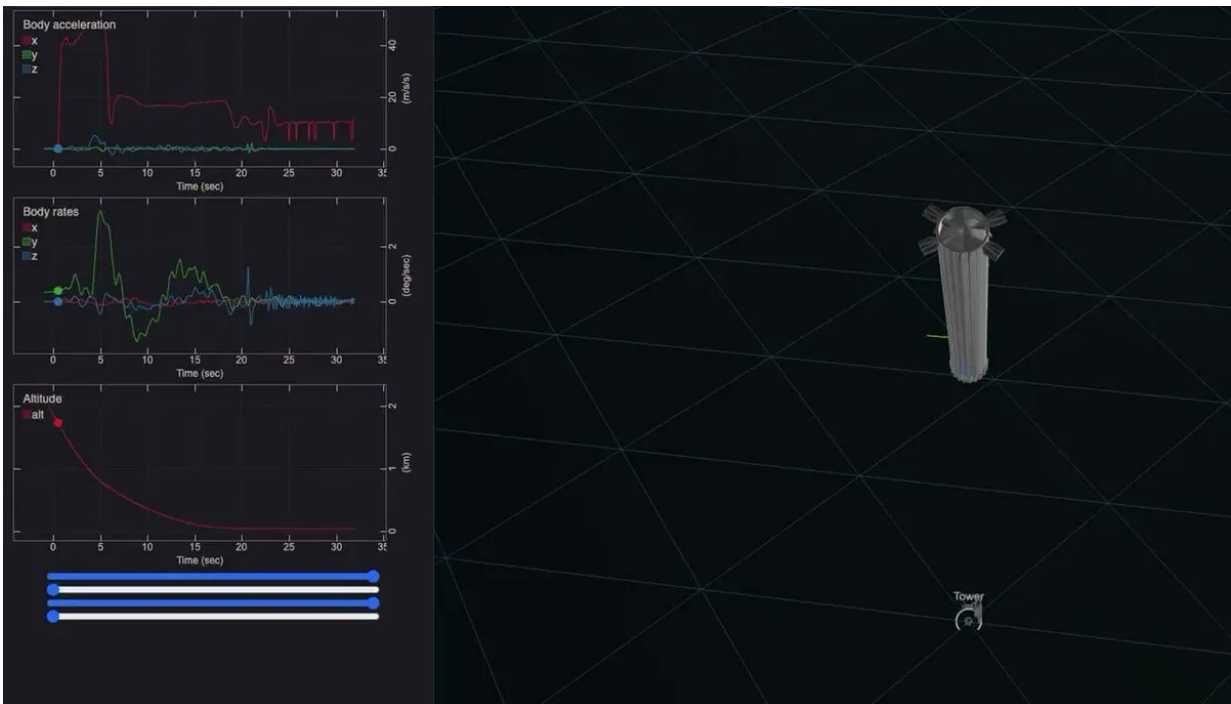


Musk shows how they're planning to catch SuperHeavy boosters

February 14 2022, by Andy Tomaswick



Captured image of the Super Heavy Descent simulation. Credit: SpaceX

SpaceX's entire business model is based on the reusability of its rockets. That business model has proven viable time and time again as boosters continue to land safely only to be reused later. But as the rockets they're using get bigger and bigger, the harder and harder it will get for them to land directly on the ground, as models they've completed so far have. So

for its SuperHeavy Booster, designed to launch its Starship craft into orbit, SpaceX has to develop a new way of capturing the rockets without damaging them. Its head, Elon Musk, has shared a Twitter video showing how it will do just that.

The video, which is only 24 seconds long, shows a computer simulation of a SuperHeavy Booster descending back to Earth after launching its payload into orbit. It's been viewed 4.3 million times as of the [time](#) of writing and has prompted a firestorm of interest online.

Maybe something like this pic.twitter.com/PUBLdaewt8

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [January 20, 2022](#)

Like much of what SpaceX has designed so far, the system is unlike any ever seen in reality. The booster itself has four rectangular fins at its top, splayed out like a giant cross outside the circular rocket housing. As it performs its powered descent, it aims between two pincer-like appendages extruding from Starbase, the original launch platform itself.

That's a pretty tight squeeze and much more challenging to navigate than existing powered descents, which have a landing pad to land on. It's also very similar to an animation system released by C-bass productions back in November.

While Starship itself was recently stacked on top of a heavy [booster](#) for the first time, and the company recently released a Starship update, hinting that the craft may fly by next month, there's still a long way to go before this system is fully tested. And there are plenty of people that are questioning the physics and economics of the system already. But if there is one rocketry company that has proven again and again that it can overcome seemingly immense technical challenges to literally get their [rocket](#) off (and back on) the ground, it's SpaceX.

Provided by Universe Today

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