

Blue Origin rocket makes third successful vertical landing

April 3 2016



This image obtained November 24, 2015 from Blue Origin, shows the world's first reusable rocket after a successful landing at a site in West Texas

American space firm Blue Origin successfully completed the third launch and vertical landing of its reusable New Shepard rocket on Saturday, company founder and Internet entrepreneur Jeff Bezos said.

"Flawless BE-3 restart and perfect booster landing," tweeted Bezos,

referring to the BE-3 engine used to land the [rocket](#) back at the company's testing site in Texas.

The unmanned crew capsule also landed safely, using parachutes, said the executive, who founded online giant Amazon and also owns The Washington Post newspaper.

The breakthroughs by Blue Origin and parallel efforts by rival Internet mogul Elon Musk's SpaceX open up the potential for cutting costs for [space](#) travel and making rockets as reusable as airplanes.

In November, Bezos called the accomplishment a "game-changer" which opens the door to lower costs in [space travel](#) and his vision of people living and working in space.

Bezos said in a tweet on Friday that the rocket's engines would be restarting just 3,600 feet (1.1 kilometers) from the ground during the vertical landing attempt on Saturday, with the rocket hitting the ground in six seconds if they failed to work properly.

The New Shepard can reach an altitude of 333,000 feet, considered the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and space.

Previous test flights for the New Shepard were in January and November.

© 2016 AFP

Citation: Blue Origin rocket makes third successful vertical landing (2016, April 3) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-blue-rocket-successful-vertical.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.