

STRATOLAUNCH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stratolaunch Carrier Aircraft Completes Fifth Flight with New Pylon

MOJAVE, CA – May 4, 2022 – Stratolaunch announces the successful completion of its fifth flight test of Roc, the world's largest flying aircraft. The aircraft flew for 4 hours and 58 minutes over the Mojave Desert and reached an altitude of 22,500 feet (6858 m).

The fifth flight debuted a new pylon on the aircraft's center wing that will be used to carry and release Talon-A hypersonic vehicles. The hardware is comprised of a mini-wing and adapter that is constructed with aluminum and carbon fiber skins. It weighs approximately 8,000 pounds and occupies 14 feet of Roc's 95-foot center wingspan, allowing for adequate space between the aircraft's dual fuselages for safe vehicle release and launch. The state-of-the-art structure also features a winch system that will load Talon onto the platform from the ground, expediting launch preparation and reducing the need for ground support.

Talon-A vehicles are rocket-powered, autonomous, reusable testbeds carrying customizable payloads at speeds above Mach 5. This testbed capability enables routine access to the hypersonic flight environment, which is critical for scientific research, technological development, and component demonstration.

Initial results from today's test objectives include:

- Validation of the aircraft's general performance and handling characteristics, with the addition of the recently installed pylon hardware
- Continued validation of landing gear operations including door functionality, and alternate gear extension

"Today's successful flight validates important hardware improvements to the carrier aircraft," said Dr. Zachary Krevor, Stratolaunch Chief Executive Officer and President. "The pylon is a crucial component of our combined launch system, and I am proud of the team's timely and quality integration work that occurred since our last test flight. It is through their dedication that we continue to make steady progress toward achieving our next milestones of Talon-A flight tests later this year."

In addition to testing the carrier aircraft, the team continues to make progress on system integration and functional testing of two Talon-A test vehicles, [TA-0](#) and [TA-1](#).

The team has also started fabrication of a third vehicle, TA-2, the first fully reusable hypersonic test vehicle. The company anticipates beginning hypersonic flight testing and delivering services to government and commercial customers in 2023.

About Stratolaunch

Stratolaunch's mission is to advance high-speed technology through innovative design, manufacturing, and operation of world-class aerospace vehicles. For the latest news and information, visit www.stratolaunch.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

Contact

Kate Squires

kate.squires@stratolaunch.com