

# “NEW MEXICO IS MAKING SPACE FOR EVERYONE”

*Sir Richard Branson*

**New Mexico is taking space to the next level.** Not only is Richard Branson tweeting about New Mexico, he’s tweeting that we’re making space “for everyone.” Branson, the founder of Virgin Galactic, is preparing to launch tourists from Spaceport America in New Mexico to the upper atmosphere and back. His company is also becoming intertwined with New Mexico’s economy and education efforts.

“Space-related activity is all around us in southern New Mexico, it’s very much part of the local history here – and activity in the region is only set to grow. With increased activity at Spaceport America, there will be incredible opportunities for young people, along with great career prospects for experienced professionals. The thought was, let’s start celebrating what we have already, and grow from there,” said Jonathan Firth, Executive Vice President of Spaceport and Program Development, in a Virgin Galactic news release.

“**New Mexico is making space for everyone,**” Branson recently tweeted about the Las Cruces Space Festival. The festival celebrates space exploration and innovation, both within the region and across the world. Along with dozens of companies, organizations and space’thusiasts, Virgin Galactic co-founded the festival to align with the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin becoming the first human to venture into space (April 12, 1961). It brought engineers, scientists and more to Las Cruces for the festival.

The festival’s showcases brought together some of the greatest minds and most fascinating projects in the sector. The Challenger Learning Center shared what a mission to Mars would be like through simulated experiments, the New Mexico State University hosted a full afternoon of events, ranging from space talks, to star gazing, to bottle rocket launches, and the Space Showcase thrilled local school children with talks from Dr. Suzie Imber and Aires Almon.

Read more about the festival at <https://www.virgin.com/virgin-unite/how-new-mexico-making-space-everyone>.

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Photo Credit: Richard Branson via Twitter

