National Aeronautics and Space Administration

X-PRESS

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards, California, April 2025

NASA Tests Precision Landing Tech for Future Space Missions

A NASA F/A-18 research aircraft takes off from NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, to test a commercial precision landing technology for future space missions. The Psionic Space Navigation Doppler Lidar system is installed in a pod located under the right wing of the aircraft.

NASA/Carla Thomas

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NASA Boosts Efficiency with Custom X-66 Flooring

NASA/Steve Freeman

NASA designed temporary floorboards for the MD-90 aircraft to use while it is transformed into the X-66 experimental demonstrator. These floorboards will protect the original flooring and streamline the modification process.

Supporting the agency's Sustainable Flight Demonstrator project, a small team in the Experimental Fabrication Shop at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, built temporary floorboards to save the project time and resources. Using temporary panels ensures the original floorboards are protected and remain flightworthy for when modifications are complete and the original flooring is reinstalled.

NASA's X-59 Completes Engine Speed Hold Test

Lockheed Martin/Garry Tice

The team behind NASA's X-59 completed another critical ground test in March, ensuring the quiet supersonic aircraft will be able to maintain a specific speed during operation. The test, known as engine speed hold, is the latest marker of progress as the X-59 nears first flight this year.

The X-59 team had previously conducted a similar test on the engine – but only as an isolated system. The March test verified the speed hold functions properly after integration into the aircraft's avionics.

The successful test confirmed the aircraft's ability to precisely control speed, which will be invaluable during flight. This capability will increase pilot safety, allowing them to focus on other critical aspects of flight operation.

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