



X-PRESS

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards, California, February 2026



NASA Adds Two F-15s for Research

Oregon Air National Guard ground crew guides one of NASA's newest F-15 aircraft onto the ramp at the agency's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025. The retired U.S. Air Force F-15s come from the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing and will transition from military service to support NASA's flight research fleet.

NASA/Christopher LC Clark



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NASA Tests Potential Fuel-Saving Technology



NASA/Christopher LC Clark

NASA researchers successfully completed a high-speed taxi test of a scale-model wing design that could make future aircraft more efficient by improving airflow across the wing's surface, saving fuel and money.

On Jan. 12, the Crossflow Attenuated Natural Laminar Flow (CATNLF) test article reached speeds of about 144 mph, marking its first major milestone. The 3-foot-tall scale model resembles a fin mounted under the belly of one of the agency's research F-15B testbed jets. However, it is a scale model of a wing mounted vertically instead of horizontally. The setup allows NASA to flight-test the wing design using an existing aircraft.

NASA Chase Aircraft Ensure X-59's Safety in Flight



NASA/Jim Ross

As NASA's X-59 quiet supersonic research aircraft continues a series of flight tests over the California high desert in 2026, its pilot will be flying with a buddy closely looking out for his safety.

That colleague will be another test pilot in a separate chase aircraft. His job: keep a careful watch on things as he tracks the X-59 through the sky, providing an extra set of eyes to help ensure the flight tests are as safe as possible. Having a chase pilot watch to make sure operations are going smoothly is an essential task when an experimental aircraft is exercising its capabilities for the first time.



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