



X-PRESS

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards, California, March 2026



NASA Armstrong Contributions Propel Artemis Innovation

A Gulfstream G-III based at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, will join other aircraft in the agency's multi-center effort to collect data on the Orion spacecraft's heat shield after reentry. Center contributions to Artemis include developing a data collection system to enhance astronaut safety, validating the system that enables Artemis astronauts to escape harm, and advancing technology needed for future missions.

NASA/Cala Thomas



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NASA Tests Laminar Flow Scaled Wing Design



NASA/Carla Thomas

NASA completed the first flight test of a scale-model wing designed to improve laminar flow, reducing drag and lowering fuel costs for future commercial aircraft.

The flight took place Jan. 29 at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, using one of the agency's F-15B research jets. The NASA-designed, 40-inch Crossflow Attenuated Natural Laminar Flow (CATNLF) wing model was attached to the aircraft's underside vertically, like a fin.

The flight lasted about 75 minutes, during which the team ensured the aircraft could maneuver safely in flight with the additional wing model.

NASA ER-2 Completes Lunar Calibration Flights



NASA/Christopher LC Clark

A NASA instrument designed to measure the Moon's brightness to help satellite sensors make more accurate measurements completed a three-week mission on a high-flying plane on Feb. 5.

NASA uses the Moon as a natural calibration source to improve the accuracy of space-based sensors. These sensors provide critical data to observe weather patterns, survey agriculture, and study the Earth's ecosystems – supporting decisions that affect everyday life. By measuring the Moon's brightness from near-space, scientists can ensure satellite instruments remain precise without adding costly onboard calibration equipment.

The Airborne Lunar Spectral Irradiance, or air-LUSI, instrument flew over the West Coast on NASA's high-altitude ER-2 aircraft, based at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California.



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