



X-PRESS

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards, California, July 2026



NASA Flights Map Tropical Ecosystems, Water, Ice

In June, NASA's C-20A aircraft wrapped up a month-long science campaign across Panama and Peru, gathering data to help communities better prepare for tropical flooding in cloud-covered regions, deepen scientific understanding of forest health, and inform planning for future NASA spaceborne missions.

NASA/Jim Ross



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NASA Experimental Fabrication Fuels Innovation



NASA/Genaro Vavuris

At NASA, innovation begins well before an aircraft takes flight. The Experimental Fabrication Branch at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, transforms engineering concepts into mission ready hardware for research aircraft and technology development. This capability helps the agency deliver advancements that benefit the public by improving aviation safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

The branch serves as a full service manufacturing, modification, and repair center for NASA Armstrong's fleet of research and science aircraft. The team specializes in precision machining, sheet metal forming, aircraft tubing, welding, additive manufacturing, composite fabrication, and structural repairs and modifications. Its broad expertise allows it to build custom hardware for aerospace and ground based applications.

NASA's X-59 Reaches Speed, Altitude Milestone



NASA/Lori Losey

NASA's X-59 experimental aircraft reached a major milestone Friday, June 12, flying Mach 1.4 (about 924 mph) and an altitude of 55,000 feet, the conditions required for the aircraft to make future flights critical to its mission.

The X-59 still has months of performance testing ahead, but after those are complete, NASA's Quesst mission will fly the aircraft over several U.S. communities to collect data on public perception of the quiet sonic thump it will make at supersonic speeds. Those community overflights will include flights at Mach 1.4 and 55,000 feet. The milestone comes just days after the X-59's first supersonic flight. That flight showed the aircraft performed as expected at Mach 1.1, but the June 12 mission conditions flight was an even more critical step for NASA.



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