



X-PRESS

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards, California, September 2026



NASA Artemis II Astronaut Visits Armstrong

NASA astronaut Victor Glover, pilot of the Artemis II mission around the Moon, speaks to employees at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, on Aug. 25. The first crewed Artemis flight marked a key step toward long-term return to the Moon and future missions to Mars.

NASA/Carla Escamilla



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NASA's 737 Research Aircraft Reveals New Paint



NASA/Carla Escamilla

NASA's 737 aircraft was painted in August in Oklahoma as it progresses with modifications for use as a reduced-gravity test aircraft for the agency. NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, took ownership of the aircraft from the U.S Air Force in June.

The aircraft will perform lunar-gravity parabolic flights to validate astronaut lunar suits and associated crew systems required to support Artemis mission objectives. These flights will happen at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, with NASA Armstrong oversight.

In addition, the aircraft will serve as a key asset for systems integration research for flight testing autonomy, sensors, and other digital systems.

Meet Mike Lippert, NASA's New X-59 Test Pilot



NASA/Carla Escamilla

NASA added a new X-59 test pilot to support the agency's Quesst mission: Mike Lippert, a research test pilot based at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California.

"This fulfills a lifelong dream of conducting airborne research and experimental flight test for NASA in the high desert — contributing to humankind's understanding of the science of flight and the nature of the world around us," Lippert said.

Lippert will fly the X-59, along with the F-15 and F-18 support aircraft, to monitor the quiet supersonic X-plane when it's in the air. He joins Nils Larson and Jim "Clue" Less, who have flown the X-59 since its first flight in October 2025.



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