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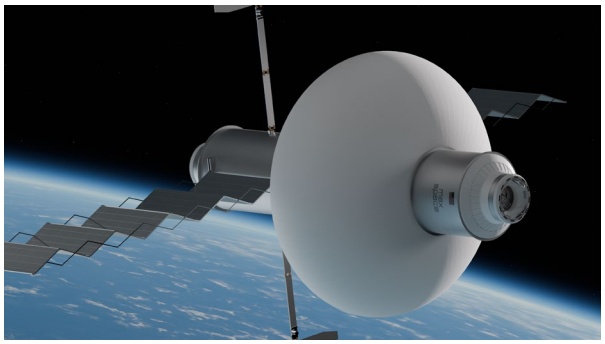
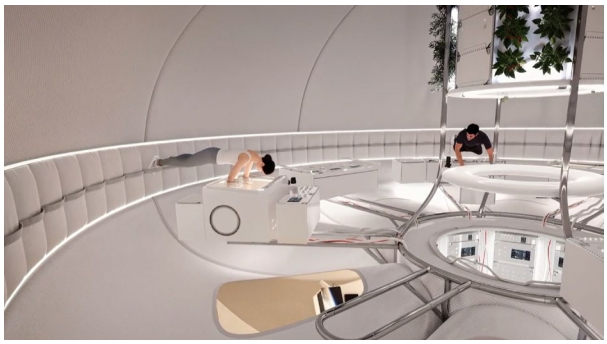
Max Space Disrupts LEO, Moon and Mars habitats with its Radically Unique Thunderbird Station

Mission Evolution in-orbit expandable habitat demonstration launches early 2027.





December 17, 2025, Cape Canaveral, FL. Max Space today announced *Thunderbird Station*, its flagship space station for Earth orbit, Moon and Mars, designed around a large expandable habitat that offers more usable volume per launch than any traditional metallic module.

The company also confirmed that *Mission Evolution*, its first in-orbit expandable habitat demonstration, is manifested on a SpaceX rideshare launch in Q1 2027.

Thunderbird Station: Large Volume, Radical Economy, for LEO, Moon and Mars

Thunderbird Station is built to support 4 or more crew members continuously, with an incredible 350m^3 of pressurized volume, more than triple that of a standard ISS module. Launched on a single standard Falcon 9 rocket, the full expandable habitat launches compactly and expands 20x once deployed in orbit, **requiring no in-orbit assembly**.

The interior features a novel reconfigurable architecture, *morphic interior structure,* that allows astronauts to dynamically adapt the space for research, manufacturing, or living during a mission. The design was developed in collaboration with veteran astronauts to take full advantage of three-dimensional volume in microgravity, not just traditional floor and wall space, to create the most spacious and functional habitable volume ever built.

Thunderbird Station is initially configured with over 60 payload lockers with room in the station for several times that in additional racks for government and commercial missions, including, industrial scale in-space manufacturing. It is designed with 3x NASA's required safety factors for traditional metallic structures, while streamlining operations and significantly cutting costs across government, defense, and commercial missions. It scales for future stations and surface habitats on the Moon and Mars.

"Thunderbird Station is not an incremental step, it's a fundamental redesign of what LEO, Moon and Mars space stations can be," said Saleem Miyan, CEO and Co-Founder of Max Space. "We're pioneering building space real estate that reflects how we'll live and work in space this decade and beyond."

“It’s the first time I’ve seen an interior truly designed for space not Earth. I’m excited that my over 100 days in space has been able to positively guide our team’s designs and the functional customization of Thunderbird for future astronaut missions” said **Nicole Stott**, veteran NASA astronaut and newly appointed Lead Astronaut at Max Space.

Stott spent 104 days in orbit on ISS and the Space Shuttle and included a spacewalk. As a NASA Aquanaut, she was a crew member on an 18-day saturation dive mission at the Aquarius Undersea Habitat. She brings decades of real-world operational experience to Thunderbird’s design process.

Mission Evolution Demo Flight set for early 2027

Max Space expandable habitat demonstration, Mission Evolution, is an evolutionary leap forward in space real estate. The primary objective is to test and verify the on-orbit deployment of the expandable module with its exceptional micrometeoroid protection layers. After many years of successful ground testing and development, the flight unit is in full production and is scheduled for launch Q1 2027 onboard a scheduled SpaceX launch.

Strategic Leadership

Also joining the Max Space team is **Dr. Kartik Sheth**, former NASA Associate Chief Scientist and White House Office of Science & Technology Policy Assistant Director. Dr. Sheth oversaw flagship missions like James Webb Telescope and Spitzer Space Telescope and was program Examiner at OMB managing $8.5B budget. He brings deep expertise to Max Space’s advisory team in aligning their space real-estate development with government and international commercial market needs.

Why It Matters

Thunderbird Station has not been designed to only support the needs for a continued presence in LEO, but it is specifically scalable for Moon and Mars habitats, while supporting U.S. dominance in space and growth of the space economy.

The ISS is approaching end of life and most alternative commercial station concepts are built around expensive rigid modules with constrained interiors. Max Space’s approach unlocks transformational capabilities: Exceptional volume flown on one standard launch, providing more capacity for crew, increased payload optionality, and supporting both civil and private missions. Further, Max Space stations are faster and simpler to produce than traditional metallics, reducing schedule risk for seamless mission continuation; significantly reduce cost to launch with no in-orbit assembly required; and, have been developed by astronauts for astronaut wellbeing and operational improvements for successful long-duration missions.

Available Assets and Links:

- Images: High-resolution renderings of Thunderbird Station (exterior + interior) and Mission Evolution test article (click here)
- Video: On-orbit deployment sequence (MP4) (click here)
- Media interview opportunities are available with Co-founder & CEO Saleem Miyan and Lead Astronaut Nicole Stott

About Max Space

Max Space builds space real estate, pioneering the only advanced expandable habitats, immense, superstrong and radically economical. The expandable habitat launches compactly and expands 20x once deployed in orbit, allowing a 1,000m^3 habitat the size of the ISS to launch on a single rocket, and without on-orbit assembly. An evolutionary leap, the habitats scale seamlessly across Earth orbit, Moon and Mars, uniquely accelerating human's permanent presence beyond Earth.

Company Co-Founders are Saleem Miyan (CEO), Aaron Kemmer (Chairman) and Maxim de Jong (CTO). Saleem has successfully led startups, growth initiatives, turnarounds, and international expansions in technology-driven sectors including Philips Semiconductors' global IoT unit, Checkpoint Systems and a company acquired by Lockheed Martin's Savi. Aaron is a successful space tech entrepreneur who co-founded Made in Space, the first in-space manufacturing company that was acquired by Redwire. Maxim de Jong is an industry recognized leader in expandable habitats. He had leading involvement in designing and manufacturing all three current expandable habitats (Genesis I, Genesis II and BEAM) that have flown in space with one still connected to ISS.

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