

# Virgin Galactic unveils tourist spaceship

British billionaire Sir Richard Branson has unveiled a craft that could soon take tourists on a trip into space. Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, which can carry six passengers and two pilots, plans to begin test flights next year and start commercial flights between 2011 and 2012

**SpaceShipTwo:** Based on design of SpaceShipOne, which won \$10 million Ansari X Prize by becoming first privately manned craft to reach space



SpaceShipOne



SpaceShipTwo



## TECHNICAL COMPARISON

	SSOne	SSTwo
Length	8.5m / 28ft	18.3m / 60ft
Wingspan	5m / 16ft	8.2m / 27ft
Cabin Dia.	1.5m / 60in	2.3m / 90in
Pilots	1	2
Passengers	2	6

Both spaceships built from lightweight composite materials and powered by hybrid rocket motor



**More than 250 people have already paid \$200,000 each to fly into space**