

Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo crashes

SpaceShipTwo – designed to take tourists to the edge of space – broke up during a test flight over America's Mojave Desert.

It was the first test flight using a new polyamide-based rocket fuel



White Knight Two

Four-engined mothership carries **SpaceShipTwo** to launch altitude of 15,200m

SpaceShipTwo

Length	18.3m
Wingspan	8.2m
Pilots	2
Passengers	6

1 After separation from mothership, **SpaceShipTwo** fires its hybrid fueled rocket motor. Fuel should burn for 70 seconds to accelerate craft to 4,000km/h

Rocket motor

This was 55th flight for **SpaceShipTwo** but only fourth time craft had actually fired its on-board rocket

2 Engine appears to burn for two seconds after ignition and then stops

3 Engine restarts and explodes

