

Did you know?

The famous Pratley Putty adhesive was used by NASA for the Apollo lunar missions and was the only South African manufactured product to go to the moon!

We asked current Pratley CEO, Andrew Pratley, what this legacy means to him now that NASA is returning to the moon:

“Certainly a lot of pride. Pratley Putty was the first of its kind in the world, and knowing that we invented a product that was the only South African manufactured product to have gone to the moon is something truly special.”

NASA/Joel Kowsky

NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket carrying the Orion spacecraft launches on the Artemis I flight test, Wednesday, November 16 2022, from Launch Complex 39B at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA's Artemis I mission is the first integrated flight test of the agency's deep space exploration systems: the Orion spacecraft, the SLS rocket, and ground systems.

BACK TO THE MOON!

Following a successful launch of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS), the most powerful rocket in the world, the agency's Orion spacecraft is on its way to the Moon as part of the Artemis program. Carrying an uncrewed Orion, SLS lifted off for its flight test debut at 1:47 a.m. EST Wednesday from Launch Pad 39B at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The launch is the first leg of a mission in which Orion is planned to travel approximately 40,000 miles beyond the Moon and return to Earth over the course of 25.5 days.

Known as Artemis I, the mission is a critical part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach, in which the agency explores for the benefit of humanity. It's an important test for the agency before flying astronauts on the Artemis II mission.

“What an incredible sight to see NASA's Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft launch together for the first time. This uncrewed flight test will push Orion to the limits in the rigors of deep space, helping us prepare for human exploration on the Moon and, ultimately, Mars,” said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Artemis I is supported by thousands of people around the world, from contractors who built Orion and SLS, and the ground infrastructure needed to launch them, to international and university partners, to small businesses supplying subsystems and components.

Through Artemis missions, NASA will land the first woman and the first person of color on the surface of the Moon, paving the way for a long-term lunar presence and serving as a steppingstone for astronauts on the way to Mars. – NASA



Guests at the Banana Creek viewing site watch the launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



Guests watch the launch from Operations and Support Building II at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.