



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

3D-printed Rocket Fails Minutes after Florida Launch

March 23, 2023

A rocket made almost entirely of 3D-printed parts started its first flight late Wednesday but failed to reach orbit. The 33-meter-long rocket, called Terran 1, took off from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The startup company Relativity Space created 85 percent of the rocket using **3D printing** technology. Most parts came from the company's large printing center in Long Beach, California.

Terran 1 took off successfully and stayed in the air for three minutes. The first stage, or lower part, of the rocket launched and separated as planned. The upper stage, however, appeared to **ignite** and then shut down, sending it crashing into the Atlantic Ocean.

Relativity Space had hoped for the rocket to stay in orbit for several days before falling through Earth's atmosphere and burning up.

It was the second failed launch by Relativity Space this month. The company called off an attempt 12 days ago just seconds before takeoff.

Though the rocket did not reach orbit, the company said it was pleased with the launch.

Arwa Tizani Kelly works for Relativity Space and discussed the launch. Kelly said that "(first) launches are always exciting and today's flight was no exception."

Although other space businesses use 3D-printed materials, the pieces make up only a small part of their rockets.

Relativity Space was founded in 2015 by two young engineers. The company said it is working to develop larger versions of the rocket that will have even more 3D-printed material.

I'm Dan Friedell.

Dan Friedell adapted this story for VOA Learning English based on a report by the Associated Press.

Words in This Story

3-D printing -*n.* the process of creating an object layer by layer, using a design made on a computer

ignite -*v.* to cause something to burn

We want to hear from you. Do you think this space business will be successful?

We have a new comment system. Here is how it works:

- 1. Write your comment in the box.*
- 2. Under the box, you can see four images for social media accounts. They are for Disqus, Facebook, Twitter and Google.*
- 3. Click on one image and a box appears. Enter the login for your social media account. Or you may create one on the Disqus system. It is the blue circle with "D" on it. It is free.*

Each time you return to comment on the Learning English site, you can use your account and see your comments and replies to them. Our comment policy is [here](#).
