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## New Mexico student rocket launch delayed until May 20

Media Article by Las Cruces Sun-News Staff  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011

UPHAM, New Mexico USA - An annual student rocket launch that was slated for Friday has been postponed until later this month because of a problem with a recent drop test, officials said. **LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS**

The launch will take place May 20, instead, said Patricia Hynes, New Mexico Space Grant Consortium director.

The Colorado-based UP Aerospace Inc. owns and engineers the rockets used each year in the launches, but most of the payloads are designed or built by students.

So-called drop tests are carried out to test a rocket's parachute system, needed for a safe landing.

"Even though the drop test was successful, a portion of flight hardware became entangled during recovery and was damaged," according to a space consortium news release. "Safe return of the students' 27 onboard experiments is a requirement of this launch, so in order to meet the mission specifications, the launch has been rescheduled."

This year, more than 800 students from New Mexico, Arizona and El Paso schools are expected to attend, officials have said. Some 200 of them are from Las Cruces.

The rocket will launch from Spaceport America, about 45 miles north of Las Cruces.

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