
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Media English 媒體英語

Nasa's giant new SLS Moon rocket makes its debut

美國航空航天局新月球火箭首次亮相



(本節目所用的音訊資源於 2022 年 3 月發表。)

美國航空航天局 (NASA) 首次推出新巨型月球火箭。該飛行器被稱作“太空發射系統 (Space Launch System, SLS)”，它被帶到佛羅里達州甘迺迪航太中心的 39B 號發射臺上進行模擬倒計時演習。

They call it the Space Launch System, or SLS, and it's a **colossus**. More powerful than the Apollo-era rockets, this new vehicle is designed to be able to send so much equipment and **cargo** to the Moon, the men and women will be able to stay there for extended periods.

它被稱為“太空發射系統”，簡稱“SLS”，是個龐然大物。這種新型運載工具比阿波羅時代的火箭更強大，設計它是為了向月球運送大量設備和物資，使得人類能在那裡停留更長時間。

Nasa dispatched a **mammoth** tractor to ferry the SLS from its assembly building to the **launch pad** at the Kennedy Space Center. Once fully installed, engineers will conduct a **dummy countdown** to check all the systems are working.

美國航空航天局派出了一輛巨型拖車，將“太空發射系統”火箭從其裝配大樓運送到甘迺迪航太中心的發射台。一旦安裝完畢，工程師將進行模擬倒計時，以檢查所有系統是否運轉正常。

If no problems are found, the rocket will launch an **uncrewed capsule** to loop around the Moon in the coming months. And if that goes well, astronauts will then start flying on a **succession of SLS** vehicles.

如果沒有發現問題，火箭將在未來幾個月內發射一個無人太空艙，圍繞月球飛行。如果進展順利，宇航員們將開始執行一系列“太空發射系統”火箭的飛行任務。

1. 詞彙表

colossus	龐然大物
cargo	貨物
mammoth	巨大的
launch pad	(航天器)發射台
dummy	模擬的
countdown	倒計時
uncrewed	未配備人員的，無人的
capsule	太空艙
a succession of	一連串，一系列

2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. What will this new rocket allow people to do?
2. How was this new rocket moved to its launch pad?
3. True or false? *The rocket will be launched by a dummy.*
4. Where will the rocket go on its first flight?

3. 答案

1. What will this new rocket allow people to do?

It will allow men and women to stay on the Moon for extended periods of time.

2. How was this new rocket moved to its launch pad?

A huge (mammoth) tractor was used to move the SLS from its assembly building to the launch pad.

3. True or false? *The rocket will be launched by a dummy.*

False. A dummy countdown is a mock countdown to check all the systems are working. Here, 'dummy' doesn't mean a model of a human.

4. Where will the rocket go on its first flight?

The rocket will launch an uncrewed capsule to loop around the Moon.