# Boeing Starliner spacecraft successfully docks with ISS but faces technical delays in return journey



On June 6, Boeing's Starliner spacecraft successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS) for the first time as part of a test flight designed to fly humans—a significant milestone for both Boeing and NASA. However, technical issues have delayed the spacecraft's return journey. Initially set to return on June 18, the mission's end has been repeatedly postponed due to problems including helium leaks and malfunctioning thrusters.

NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore remain on board the ISS while officials work to resolve these issues. Despite the propulsion system's complications, NASA has reiterated that the spacecraft is safe for the astronauts and could be used in an emergency.

Resolving these technical challenges is crucial for Boeing, which aims to certify Starliner for regular crew rotations, joining SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft in servicing the ISS. This mission is a pivotal test before Boeing can secure its place as a reliable space transport provider under a $4.2 billion contract with NASA.