# Boeing to Launch Starliner Spacecraft with NASA Astronauts for Crucial ISS Test Flight



Boeing is set to launch its Starliner spacecraft with NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore aboard on June 1, 2024. This mission marks a crucial test flight to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of NASA's commercial crew program.

The launch, scheduled for 12:25 p.m. ET from Cape Canaveral, Florida, faced numerous delays due to technical issues, including a faulty rocket valve and a helium leak in the spacecraft. Engineers addressed these problems, deeming the remaining helium leak manageable and safe for the mission.

Williams and Wilmore, both seasoned astronauts, will spend approximately eight days on the ISS. Their trip involves various operational tests on Starliner, determining the spacecraft’s readiness for future missions. If successful, Boeing will join SpaceX in regularly transporting astronauts to the ISS.

The mission includes significant cargo, such as a critical pump replacement for the ISS's water recovery system, alongside personal items from the astronauts. This launch reinforces Boeing's participation in NASA's move to privatize space transport, although Boeing continues to lean on NASA for certain mission operations.

Despite the pre-launch complications, NASA and Boeing remained confident in the mission's safety and objectives, hoping to establish Starliner as a reliable vessel for future spaceflights.