

North American Space Milestones: SpaceX IPO, Blue Origin's Recovery, and NASA's Artemis II

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 9 Questions

1. Which North American company launched 81 satellites, including a Canadian student-built CubeSat, on its Transporter-17 mission on July 7, 2026?

- A) United Launch Alliance (ULA)
- B) Blue Origin
- C) SpaceX**
- D) Northrop Grumman

2. What significant milestone did United Launch Alliance (ULA) achieve on July 2, 2026, with the launch of 29 Amazon Leo broadband satellites?

- A) Their first Vulcan rocket launch for Amazon Leo
- B) The final flight of their Atlas V rocket in a 551 configuration**
- C) The deployment of the first entirely reusable ULA rocket
- D) A record for the most satellites launched in a single mission

3. Following a May 28, 2026 explosion during a test, which company announced its plan on June 30, 2026, to return its New Glenn rocket to flight by the end of 2026?

- A) SpaceX
- B) Northrop Grumman
- C) Blue Origin**
- D) Rocket Lab

4. NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope completed important prelaunch milestones in late June 2026. Which rocket is targeted to launch it no earlier than August 30, 2026?

- A) ULA Atlas V
- B) SpaceX Falcon Heavy**
- C) Blue Origin New Glenn
- D) Northrop Grumman Antares

5. Canadian Space Agency astronaut Colonel Jeremy Hansen, who flew on Artemis II, announced on July 6, 2026, that he would step back from active duty starting in September 2026 to pursue what role?

- A) A full-time position at NASA's Johnson Space Center
- B) A leadership role at a private space tourism company
- C) A reservist with the Royal Canadian Air Force**
- D) A teaching position at a Canadian university

6. On June 24, 2026, the Canadian Space Agency awarded a contract valued at \$688M to which company for a next-generation Earth observation replenishment satellite?

- A) SpaceX
- B) Blue Origin
- C) MDA Space**
- D) Northrop Grumman

7. NASA released a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) on July 7, 2026, for the Commercial Low Earth Orbit Destination Contract (CLEODC). What is the primary goal of this initiative?

- A) To develop a new generation of lunar rovers for the Artemis program
- B) To procure launch services for future Mars missions
- C) To establish commercial space stations to succeed the International Space Station**
- D) To fund research into advanced propulsion systems

8. Which North American company's Pegasus rocket flew its final mission on July 3, 2026, launching the LINK spacecraft to extend the life of NASA's Swift Observatory?

- A) Rocket Lab
- B) SpaceX
- C) United Launch Alliance (ULA)
- D) Northrop Grumman**

9. On June 12, 2026, which major North American space company made history with its initial public offering (IPO), with shares opening at \$135?

- A) Blue Origin
- B) SpaceX**
- C) Sierra Space
- D) Axiom Space