

Dear All

The next ten days will be historic. For the first time private citizens will be flying into space.

Richard Branson who spoke at the Annual ABG Awards in 2019 and Jeff Bezos who has just stepped down as CEO of Amazon will try what was unthinkable a few years ago. Here is my understanding of the situation:

1. Branson created Virgin Galactic a rocket venture in 2004.
2. Branson is flying on Sunday morning in the VSS Unity. He will be flying with the two pilots and a few of his colleagues – Beth Moses, Colin Bennett and Sirisha Bandla.
3. Branson will fly off from Truth, New Mexico. This will take off from a normal runway and then after a height, he will propel to a level which is about 50 miles above earth.
4. This whole journey will last start to finish 90 minutes. This journey will be telecast live with Stephen Colbert the sitcom comedian doing the commentary. Grammy nominee Khalid has composed a special song and this will be played when Branson lands back on earth.
5. VSS Unity has done 20 test flights so far and has achieved success in this routine.
6. Jeff Bezos started Blue Origins in 2000.
7. Bezos will be flying out on July 20th for a 11 minute ride with his brother Mark and a winner of an auction who has paid \$ 28 million for this ride.
8. Bezos is flying on July 20th which is the landing anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969.
9. We are likely to see a three way competition between Branson, Bezos and Musk for a piece of the travel and other space activity business in the future.
10. Space and investments in space have been the privy of government agencies so far like NASA, etc. For the first time we are seeing private enterprise will participate. We will see prices drop over time, right now this is a sport for the thrill seeking ultra- rich. We will see new products coming out of the space ventures.

This is a high stakes game right now and the world will wait to see who the long term winners will be.

I will log in to see this unique flight, I remember watching the first A 380 flight in April 2005 on Television and the last Concorde flight in 2003.

Enjoy the next billionaire battle in space !!

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