11th century  China makes gunpowder to propel arrows in battle
Mid-1700s  Indian military ruler, Hyder Ali, begins building projectiles with iron to improve range and stability
March 16, 1926  American physicist, Robert Goddard, launches the first successful liquid-fueled rocket
July 17, 1929  American physicist, Robert Goddard, launches the first rocket equipped with scientific tools (a barometer and a camera)
October 3, 1942  Germany successfully test launches the V-2, the first ballistic missile
September 29, 1945  German aerospace engineer, Wernher von Braun, and six other German rocket specialists arrive at Ft. Bliss, Texas where they reassembled and tested V-2 rockets brought to America from Germany. The team later came to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama
March 22, 1946  U.S. launches first American built rocket to leave Earth’s atmosphere, the WAC
October 14, 1947  American test pilot, Chuck Yeager, breaks the sound barrier for the first time in the X-1
February 24, 1949  U.S. V-2 WAC-Corporal becomes first rocket to outer space
October 4, 1957  Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1 atop a modified R-7 two-stage Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)
November 3, 1957  Soviet Union launches Sputnik 2 with the dog Laika aboard, becoming the first living passenger in space
January 31, 1958  U.S. launches Explorer 1, the first satellite with an onboard telemetry system, into orbit atop a Juno rocket
May 15, 1958  Soviet Union launches Sputnik 3, the first space laboratory
October 1, 1958  The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is created
October 7, 1958  NASA administrator, T. Keith Glennan, publicly announces NASA’s manned spaceflight program
January 2, 1959  Soviet Union launches Luna 1, which misses the moon, but becomes the first artificial object to leave Earth’s orbit
February 17, 1959  NASA launches its first weather station, Vanguard 3
February 28, 1959  NASA launches Discover 1, the first American spy satellite
May 28, 1959  NASA launches Able and Baker, the first primates in space, into suborbital flight
August 7, 1959  U.S.’s Explorer 6 launches and provides the first photographs of the Earth from space
September 12, 1959  Soviet Union launches Luna 2, and two days later is intentionally crashed into the moon
September 17, 1959  U.S.’s X-15 hypersonic research jet, capable of speeds up to Mach 6.7, makes its first powered flight
April 13, 1960  NASA launches first navigational satellite, Transit 1B
August 19, 1960  Soviet Union launches Sputnik 5, onboard were two dogs, 40 mice, 2 rats, and a variety of plants. The dogs were safely recovered, becoming the first living animals to survive orbital flight
January 31, 1961  NASA launches the first astrochimp and Hominidae, Ham, aboard a Mercury capsule to test if space travel was safe for humans
April 12, 1961  Soviet cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, becomes the first man in space
April 20, 1961  American, Harold Graham, makes first rocket belt flight
May 5, 1961  NASA launches Mercury Freedom 7 atop a Redstone rocket, making Alan Shepard the first American in space
May 25, 1961  U.S. President John Kennedy announces that an American will land on the moon and be returned safely to Earth before the end of the decade
July 21, 1961  American astronaut and Captain, Virgil “Gus” Grissom becomes the second American to go into suborbital flight atop the Mercury 4 Liberty Bell 7
February 20, 1962  American astronaut and Marine Lt. Col., John Glenn, makes the first American manned orbital flight aboard Mercury 6 Friendship 7

June 7, 1962  American aerospace engineer, Wernher von Braun, backs the idea of a Lunar Orbit Rendezvous mission

July 10, 1962  NASA launches Telstar1, which enables the trans-Atlantic transmission of television signals

July 11, 1962  Soviet cosmonaut, Nicaev, sets longevity space flight record at 4 days

July 28, 1962  Soviet Union launches Cosmos 7, its first successful spy satellite

August 27, 1962  NASA launches the probe, Mariner 2, to Venus, making the first successful interplanetary flyby when passing Venus

September 29, 1962  Canada’s first satellite, Alouette 1, launches atop a NASA Thor-Agena B rocket

May 7, 1963  NASA launches Telstar 2, making the first public transatlantic broadcast

June 16, 1963  Soviet cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, becomes first woman to travel to space

November 21, 1963  India launches its first rocket

July 28, 1964  NASA launches Ranger 7, the Ranger series’ first success, taking 4308 photographs of the moon

April 8, 1964  NASA launches Gemini 1, an unmanned two-seat spacecraft

August 19, 1964  NASA launches Syncom 3 atop a Thor-Delta rocket, becoming the first geostationary telecommunications satellite

October 12, 1964  Soviet Union launches Voskhod 1, a modified Vostok orbiter, with a three-person crew

March 18, 1965  Soviet cosmonaut, Alexei Leonov, makes the first space walk from the Voskhod 2 orbiter for twenty minutes

March 23, 1965  NASA launches Gemini 3, first of the manned Gemini missions, with a two-person crew on a Titan 2 rocket. This was the first two-person American space flight, making astronaut Gus Grissom the first man to travel to space twice

April 3, 1966  Soviet probe, Luna 10, enters lunar orbit, becoming the first spacecraft to orbit the moon

April 6, 1966  Intelsat launches first satellite, Intelsat 1

June 3, 1965  American astronaut, Ed White, of Gemini 4, becomes the first American to walk in space

July 14, 1965  U.S. probe, Mariner 4, makes first successful Mars flyby, displaying the first close up photographs

November 26, 1965  France launches its first satellite, Asterix, on a Diamant A rocket

February 3, 1966  Unmanned Soviet spacecraft, Luna 9, makes first soft landing on the moon

March 1, 1966  Soviet Union’s probe, Venera 3, becomes first spacecraft to land on Venus, but data could not be returned

March 16, 1966  NASA launches Gemini 8 on a Titan 2 rocket and later docks with an Agena rocket, becoming the first docking between two orbiting spacecraft

April 3, 1966  Soviet probe, Luna 10, enters lunar orbit, becoming the first spacecraft to orbit the moon

June 2, 1966  U.S. lunar lander, Surveyor 1, performs the first successful American soft landing on the moon

January 27, 1967  U.S. signed a space treaty with the Soviet Union, more than 60 nations signed a treaty banning the orbiting of nuclear weapons

January 27, 1967  U.S.’s Apollo 1 mission crew suffocate from smoke inhalation in a cabin fire during a launch pad test, becoming NASA’s first loss of a crew

April 5, 1967  A review board delivers a damning report to NASA administrator, James Webb, about the Apollo spacecraft problem areas. The modifications are completed by October 9, 1968
April 23, 1967  Soviet Union launches Soyuz 1, but the solar panels do not unfold, there are stability problems, and the parachute fails to open on descent, causing the death of the Soviet cosmonaut, Vladimir Komarov

November 9, 1967  NASA launches the Saturn V

October 11, 1968  NASA launches Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, on a Saturn 1 for an 11-day mission in Earth orbit, featured the first live TV broadcast of humans in space

December 7, 1968  NASA launches the first orbiting astronomical observatory, OAO-2

December 21, 1968  NASA launches Apollo 8 on a Saturn V, becoming the first manned mission to orbit the moon

January 16, 1969  Soviet Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 rendezvous, dock, and perform the first in-orbit crew transfer

March 3, 1969  NASA launches Apollo 9, tests of lunar module are conducted in Earth orbit

July 20, 1969  U.S. Apollo 11 crew lands on the moon, fulfilling President Kennedy’s promise. Neil Armstrong, the first civilian astronaut, becomes the first man to walk on the moon

February 11, 1970  Japan launches a test satellite, Ohsumi, atop Lambda 4 rocket into orbit

April 13, 1970  An explosion ruptures the command model of U.S. Apollo 13 within the reach of the moon. Abandoning the mission, the crew climbs into the Lunar Module and slingshot around the moon to return back to earth

April 24, 1970  The People’s Republic of China launches its first satellite, Dong Fang Hong-1, on a Long March 1 rocket

September 12, 1970  Soviet Union launches Luna 16, the first successful automated lunar sample retrieval mission

April 19, 1971  Soviet Union launches the first space station, Salyut 1, on a Proton rocket

July 26, 1971  NASA launches Apollo 15 with a Boeing-built Lunar Roving Vehicle and better life support equipment to explore the moon

October 28, 1971  United Kingdom launches its first satellite, Prospero, into orbit on a Black Arrow rocket

November 13, 1971  U.S. Mariner 9 becomes first spacecraft to orbit Mars and provide the first complete map of the planet’s surface

January 5, 1972  U.S. President Richard Nixon announces that NASA is developing the space shuttle, a reusable launch vehicle

March 2, 1972  NASA launches Pioneer 10, carrying a plaque designed by Carl Sagan and Frank Drake showing some details of human civilization on Earth

December 11, 1972  NASA launches Apollo 17, the last American mission to the moon

May 14, 1973  NASA launches Skylab, the first American space station, on a Saturn V rocket

March 29, 1974  U.S Mariner 10 becomes the first spacecraft to flyby Mercury

April 19, 1975  Soviet Union launches India’s first satellite, Aryabhata

July 17, 1975  Soviet Soyuz 19 and U.S. Apollo 18 dock

August 9, 1975  European Space Agency launches its first satellite, Cos-B, atop a Thor-Delta rocket

September 9, 1975  NASA launches Viking 2 for Mars

July 20, 1976  U.S. Viking 1 lands on Mars, becoming the first successful Mars lander

August 20, 1977  NASA launches Voyager 2 on a course toward Uranus and Neptune

September 5, 1977  NASA launches Voyager 1 to perform flybys of Jupiter and Saturn

September 29, 1977  Soviet Salyut, the first space station equipped with docking stations on both ends, reaches orbit

February 22, 1978  NASA launches first GPS satellite, Navstar 1, atop an Atlas F rocket

August 12, 1978  NASA launches International Cometary Explorer to study the interaction of the solar wind with the Earth’s magnetosphere

July 11, 1979  U.S. Skylab, first American space station, crashes back to Earth in western Australia

September 1, 1979  U.S. Pioneer 11 becomes first spacecraft to flyby Saturn
December 24, 1979  Europe launches its first launch vehicle, the French-built Ariane rocket
May 18, 1980  China launches its first intercontinental rocket
July 18, 1980  India launches its first satellite, Rohini 1, onboard its domestically developed SLV-3 rocket
September 18, 1980  Soviet cosmonaut, Arndoldo Tamayo, becomes the first African American to go to space
April 12, 1981  NASA launches Space Shuttle Columbia, first space mission for NASA’s new astronaut transportation system
June 24, 1982  Soviet Union launches Soyuz T-6 with French air force test pilot, Jean-Loup Chretien to the Soviet space station, Salyut 7
November 11, 1982  NASA launches Shuttle Columbia, which later deploys two commercial communication satellites
June 13, 1983  U.S. space probe, Pioneer 10, becomes the first spacecraft to leave the solar system
June 18, 1983  American astronaut, Sally Ride, aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger becomes first American woman to go to space
August 30, 1983  American astronaut, Guion Bluford, becoming the first American African American to go to space
October 13, 1983  U.S. Shuttle Challenger carried 7 astronauts, the largest crew to date
January 25, 1984  U.S. President Ronald Reagan endorsed the development of the first American permanently manned space station
February 7, 1984  American astronauts Bruce McCandless and Robert Stewart maneuver 100 meters from the Space Shuttle Challenger using the Manned Maneuvering Unit, containing small thrusters, in the first ever untethered spacewalks
March 1, 1984  NASA launches Landsat 5 to map the Earth
July 25, 1984  Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya becomes the first woman to walk in space
October 11, 1984  American astronaut, Kathryn Sullivan, becomes the first American woman to walk in space
November 14, 1984  U.S. Shuttle Discovery snared a wandering satellite, the first space salvage
January 24, 1985  NASA launches Shuttle Discovery on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission
April 12, 1985  NASA launches Shuttle Discovery with senator Jake Garn of Utah, becoming the first senator to go to space
September 11, 1985  International Cometary Explorer performs first comet flyby
January 24, 1986  U.S. Voyager 2 completes first flyby of Uranus
January 28, 1986  U.S. Shuttle Challenger explodes after launch, killing the first schoolteacher chosen to go to space, Christa McAuliffe, halting the shuttle fleet for more than two years. The disaster was blamed on unusually cold temperatures and the failure of O-rings
February 20, 1986  Soviet Union launches the Mir space station
June 15, 1986  PanAmSat launches its first satellite, PanAmSat 1, on an Ariane 4 rocket, giving Intelsat its first competition
September 19, 1988  Israel launches its first satellite, the Ofeq 1 reconnaissance probe, atop an Israeli Shavit rocket
November 15, 1988  Soviet Union launches Shuttle Buran, the first Soviet space shuttle, for an unmanned test
May 4, 1989  NASA launches Magellan space probe, aboard Shuttle Atlantis to use radar to map the surface of Venus
July 20, 1989  U.S. President George Bush called for a long-range space program to build an orbiting space station, establish a base on the moon, and send a manned mission to Mars
October 18, 1989  NASA launches Shuttle Atlantis with Jupiter-bound Galileo space probe
November 18, 1989  NASA launches the Cosmic Background Explorer to investigate the
cosmic microwave background radiation
April 7, 1990   China launches Asiasat 1 communication satellite
April 25, 1990  U.S. shuttle Discovery releases the Hubble Space Telescope into Earth orbit
October 29, 1991 U.S. Galileo spacecraft on its way to Jupiter, successfully flybys the asteroid
Gaspra, obtaining images and other data
March 24, 1992 NASA launches Shuttle Atlantis, on the first shuttle mission devoted to the
environment. Studies on atmospheric chemistry, solar radiation, space plasma physics and
ultraviolet astronomy are conducted
April 23, 1992  U.S. Cosmic Background Explorer detects the first evidence of structure in the
residual radiation left over from the Big Bang
September 12, 1992 American astronaut, Mae Jemison, aboard U.S. Shuttle Endeavor,
becomes the first African American woman to go to space
June 21, 1993  NASA launches Shuttle Endeavor, carrying a privately owned laboratory, Spacehab
October 30, 1993 Martin Fettman, the first American veterinarian to go to space, performed the
first animal dissections in space, aboard Shuttle Columbia
December 17, 1993 DirecTV launches its first satellite, DirecTV 1, atop an Ariane 4 rocket
February 7, 1994 Milstar launches its first secure communications satellite. The
geosynchronous satellites are used by battlefield commanders and for strategic communications
October 15, 1994 India launches its four-stage PolarSatellite Launch Vehicle for the first time
1994  Fresh water fish from Japan, known as Medaka, become the first vertebrate creatures to
successfully mate in space
February 3, 1995  NASA launches Shuttle Discovery, with Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Collins, the
first woman pilot in NASA history
February 6, 1995  U.S. Shuttle Discovery rendezvous with the Russian Mir station
June 27, 1995   American astronaut, Norman Thagard, broke NASA’s space endurance record
of 84 days aboard the Russian space station Mir
July 13, 1995   U.S. Galileo releases its space probe, bound for Jupiter and its moons
Observatory, to study the Sun
February 21, 1996 The Space Telescope Science Institute announced that photographs from
the Hubble Space Telescope confirmed the existence of a black hole equal to the mass of two
billion suns in a galaxy some 30 million light-years away
August 7, 1996  NASA and Stanford University announce a paper contending that a 4-billion-
year-old Martian meteorite that contains fossilized traces of carbonate materials that suggest
primitive life may have once existed on Mars
May 5, 1997    Iridium, a satellite mobile phone company, launches its first five satellites atop a
Delta 2 rocket
July 4, 1997    U.S. Mars Pathfinder lander and its accompanying Sojourner rover land on the
surface of Mars
August 25, 1997 NASA launches the Advanced Composition Explorer solar observatory
aboard a Delta rocket to where the gravity of the Earth and Sun balance
February 14, 1998 Globalstar, a satellite mobile phone company, launches its first four
satellites atop a Delta 2 rocket
March 5, 1998  NASA officials announce that the Lunar Prospector probe found the presence
of water on the moon at the north and south poles and that the water might support a lunar
base and a human colony
October 24, 1998 NASA launches Deep Space 1, testing 12 high-risk technologies
October 29, 1998 U.S. Shuttle Discovery launches with John Glenn, the first American to orbit
the earth in 1962, becoming oldest person to go to space at the age of 77
November 20, 1998  Russia launches its Zarya control module, the first segment of the International Space Station (ISS), to unfurl solar arrays

July 23, 1999  NASA launches the Chandra X-ray observatory, NASA’s mission for X-ray astronomy, aboard Shuttle Colombia

November 19, 1999  China launches its first unmanned test craft, Shenzhou 1

May 6, 2001  U.S. entrepreneur, Dennis Tito, returns to Earth aboard a Russian Soyuz, becoming the first paying tourist to visit the ISS

April 29, 2001  Japan launches the two-stage H-2A rocket, for the first time

November 23, 2002  American astronaut, John Herrington, aboard U.S. Shuttle Endeavor, becomes the first Native American to go to space

December 30, 2002  China launches Shenzhou 4 in a test launch to prepare for manned space voyages

February 1, 2003  U.S. Shuttle Columbia disintegrates during re-entry into the atmosphere, with Israel’s first astronaut, Col. Ilan Ramon aboard. Damage from insulating foam hitting the orbiter's leading wing on liftoff is later cited as the cause

August 22, 2003  Brazil launches the VLS-V03, a prototype rocket, which explodes on the launch pad

August 25, 2003  NASA launches the Spitzer Space Telescope aboard a Delta rocket

October 15, 2003  Yang Liwei becomes China’s first taikonaut, launches aboard Shenzhou 5

January 4, 2004  U.S.’s first Mars Exploration Rover, Spirit, lands on Mars

January 14, 2004  U.S. President George Bush advocates space exploration missions to the moon and mars for NASA

January 25, 2004  U.S. Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, lands on Mars

March 2, 2004  ESA launches Rosetta lander, intended to land on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko

April 20, 2004  NASA launches Gravity Probe B satellite to test Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity

June 21, 2004  SpaceShipOne launches, the world’s first attempted commercial space flight

September 20, 2004  India launches its three-stage Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle for the first time

January 14, 2005  European space probe, Huygens, landed on Saturn’s moon Titan, sending back images of what scientists were calling the strangest landscape in the solar system

July 26, 2005  U.S. Shuttle Discovery becomes the first shuttle to launch since the Columbia disaster more than two years before. While the crew returned safely, the loss of several pieces of foam debris prompted further investigation, which delayed future shuttle missions

October 12, 2005  China launches a two-taikonaut crew aboard the Shenzhou 6


July 4, 2006  NASA launches the second post-Columbia test flight, STS-121, aboard Shuttle Discovery. Beginning a successful space station-bound mission, STS-121 returns the U.S. orbiter fleet to flight status

September 9, 2006  NASA launches Shuttle Atlantis atop STS-115 after two successful return to flight test missions and resumes construction of the ISS

September 18, 2006  Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian-American telecommunications entrepreneur, launches on a Russian rocket bound for the ISS, becoming the first paying female space tourist

January 11, 2007  China launches a ground-launched missile to down one of its weather satellites, joining Russia and the U.S. as the only nations to have successfully tested anti-satellite weapons

April 17, 2007  Egypt launches EgyptSat1, its first remote sounding satellite
August 4, 2007  NASA launches its Phoenix Mars Lander, a robotic dirt and ice digger, for Mars

August 8, 2007  NASA launches Shuttle Endeavor atop STS-118 toward the ISS. Crew includes the first educator space flyer, Barbara Morgan

August 14, 2007  American teacher-astronaut, Barbara Morgan, transformed U.S. Shuttle Endeavor and space station into a classroom for her first educational session from orbit, fulfilling the legacy of Christa McAuliffe, who died in the 1986 Shuttle Challenger disaster

September 27, 2007  NASA launches Dawn, the first ion-powered probe, to visit the asteroid Vest and dwarf planet Ceres, the two largest space rocks in the solar system

October 10, 2007  NASA astronaut, Peggy Whitson, the first female commander of the ISS, prepares to launch with Malaysia’s first astronaut, Yuri Malenchenko

December 16, 2007  Argentia and Brazil launch VS30 rocket, carrying experiments from both countries

April 8, 2008  Russian capsule carrying South Korea’s first astronaut Yi So-yeon launches

September 6, 2008  NASA launches GeoEye-1, a super-sharp Earth-imaging satellite. In black and white mode, GeoEye could distinguish objects as small as 16 inches on Earth’s surface

September 25, 2008  China launches Shenzhou 7 atop a Long March 2-F rocket

September 27, 2008  Chinese taikonaut, Zhai Zhigang performed China’s first ever spacewalk

September 28, 2008  Space Explorations Technologies (SpaceX) launched its 2-stage Falcon 1 rocket into orbit

September 29, 2008  U.S.’s Phoenix spacecraft discovers evidence of past water on Mars. Soil experiments reveal calcium carbonate, and minerals known to be formed in liquid water

October 22, 2008  India launches Chandrayaan 1 satellite, its first mission to the moon, with U.S.’s Mono Mineralogy Mapper spectroscope

October 24, 2008  American astronaut, Richard Garriott, becomes the first second generation astronaut to go to space

January 23, 2009  Japan’s space agency (JAXA) launches Ibuki, the first satellite dedicated to monitoring carbon dioxide emissions

February 2, 2009  Iran launches Omid, its first domestically made satellite, into orbit

March 6, 2009  NASA launches its planet-hunting Kepler Space Telescope to track down other Earths in a faraway patch of the Milky Way galaxy

August 25, 2009  South Korea launches Naro-1, the countries first rocket

December 7, 2009  Virgin Galactic unveiled the VSS Enterprise, its first commercial spaceship. Initial trips to the edge of space were expected to cost $200,000 per person

April 13, 2010  U.S. officials say U.S. President Barack Obama is reviving the NASA crew capsule concept, meaning there will be more jobs and less reliance on the Russians

April 15, 2010  U.S. president Barack Obama announces a goal to visit an asteroid by 2025

June 4, 2010  SpaceX launches Falcon 9, a test rocket, to orbit

June 22, 2010  Israel launches Ofek 9, a spy satellite

October 10, 2010  Virgin Galactic’s space tourism rocket, SpaceShip 2, achieves its first solo glide flight

October 11, 2010  U.S. President Barack Obama signed a NASA act for U.S. space exploration of asteroids and Mars into law

December 8, 2010  SpaceX launches its Falcon 9 test rocket carrying its Dragon capsule

January 30, 2011  Israel signed an agreement with the ESA for cooperation on space technology and exploration of the solar system

February 2, 2011  NASA scientists report that the Kepler spacecraft has found over 1,000 possible planets with at least 54 of them within their sun’s habitable zone

February 7, 2011  Iran unveils four new “research” satellites, worrying other nations. Commander Mohammad Ali Jafari says Iran is mass-producing a ballistic missile that can travel at more than three times the speed of sound and hit targets on the high seas

July 19, 2011  U.S. spacecraft Dawn takes the first available images of the asteroid Vesta
July 20, 2011  U.S. Hubble Space Telescope finds a fourth moon circling Pluto
August 4, 2011  NASA scientists detect the first clear signs that water may be flowing on Mars by the HiRISE camera aboard the Reconnaissance Orbiter
August 10, 2011  U.S. Mars rover, Opportunity, reaches the rim of a 14-mile-wide crater where it will examine the oldest rocks it has seen on its seven years on the surface of Mars
September 10, 2011  NASA launches two probes, Grail-A and Grail-B, to measure lunar gravity and find what is inside the moon’s core, atop a Delta 2 rocket
September 29, 2011  China launches Tiangong-1, an experimental module, atop a Long March 2F rocket, taking its first step towards building a space station
November 1, 2011  China launches an unmanned Shenzhou 8 to dock with Tiangong-1
November 4, 2011  In Russia, an international crew of researchers emerged from a set of windowless modules after a grueling 520-day simulation of a flight to Mars
November 26, 2011  NASA launches Mars rover, Curiosity, of “monster truck” proportions. Said to be the biggest, best-equipped robot ever sent to explore another planet
May 22, 2012  SpaceX launches its private space capsule, Dragon, to the ISS, becoming the first private delivery to the ISS
June 16, 2012  China launches Shenzhou 9 in an attempt to dock with an orbiting module and work onboard for a week
August 6, 2012  U.S. Mars Science Laboratory and Curiosity Rover land on Mars
August 15, 2012  Astronomers using NASA’s Chandra X-Ray telescope reported the discovery of a galaxy cluster that creates 740 stars a year, estimated to be 6 billion years old
August 2012  U.S. probe, Voyager 1, entered interstellar space
January 30, 2013  South Korea launches Naro booster, its first launch from its own soil
November 5, 2013  India launches its first spacecraft bound for Mars, Mangalyaan
November 18, 2013  NASA launches Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) atop an Atlas V-41
December 14, 2013  China launches its first ever moon rover, Yutu
December 19, 2013  ESA launches its star surveying satellite, Gaia, hoping to produce the most accurate 3-D map of the Milky Way Galaxy
May 29, 2014  SpaceX unveils Dragon V2, designed to carry up to seven astronauts to the ISS
July 16, 2014  United Arab Emirates announces it will create a space agency with the aim of sending the first Arab unmanned probe to Mars by 2021
September 16, 2014  NASA selects Boeing and SpaceX to transport astronauts to the ISS in the next years following
September 21, 2014  U.S. MAVEN enters Mars orbit
December 3, 2014  JAXA launches Hayabusa 2 to blow a crater in a remote asteroid and bring back rock samples in hopes of gathering clues to the origin of Earth
April 16, 2015  Russian President Vladimir Putin announces plans to build Russia’s own orbiting space station by 2023
April 30, 2015  Blue Origin, a private space company, launches unmanned New Shepard capsule to directly to space and back
May 25, 2015  United Arab Emirates lays out a strategic framework for a newly created space agency
2015  It is estimated that some 3,000 tons of rocket debris were in orbit around Earth

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