BETH MOSES

Beth Moses is an American astronaut, aerospace engineer, and Chief Astronaut Instructor at Virgin Galactic, a public spaceflight corporation which is developing suborbital space tourism. Ms. Moses leads Virgin Galactic's cabin testing and will train all SpaceShipTwo cabin astronauts.

On February 22, 2019 Moses launched to space with two pilots and performed the first-ever test of SpaceShipTwo's customer cabin. SpaceShipTwo reached an altitude of 55.9 miles during a two-hour test flight. In space Moses unstrapped and evaluated core elements of the SpaceShipTwo cabin experience including seat egress, seat ingress, vehicle dynamics, microgravity handling aids, translation aids, windows, glare, views, and a large cabin mirror. Her space experience gave her the ideal qualifications to train all future cabin astronauts – staff, researchers, and tourists.

During her flight, Moses was unstrapped and floating weightless in the middle of the cabin while VSS Unity silently and gradually slowed to its peak altitude before stopping and beginning its descent back to Earth, affording Moses the unparalleled experience of becoming the first human to view the Earth from space while hovering weightless inside a stationary spacecraft. Ms. Moses is also the world's first female commercial astronaut and the recipient of FAA commercial astronaut wings #007, having been the seventh person in history to serve on the flight crew of a commercial spacecraft.

Previously, Ms. Moses worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center where she served as the Extravehicular Activity System Manager for the International Space Station (ISS), responsible for ensuring the successful extravehicular assembly and maintenance of ISS. She led the human-in-the-loop testing which verified the systems used to assemble ISS in orbit. ISS received the 2009 Robert J. Collier trophy honoring the "greatest achievement in aeronautics and astronautics in America" for "successful design, development, and assembly of the worlds' largest spacecraft, an orbiting laboratory, promising new discoveries for mankind and setting new standards for international co-operation in space.

Ms. Moses received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University. As a student, Ms. Moses was a recipient of the National Space Foundation's Microgravity Research Award. She is a recipient of Adler Planetarium's annual Women in Space Science Award and a Google Science Fair judge.