

AUTOMOTIVE

Land Rover to continue support for Virgin Galactic

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Land Rover is partnering with spaceline Virgin Galactic through at least 2024. Image credit: Jaguar Land Rover

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British automaker Land Rover is extending its longtime partnership with Virgin Galactic as both companies look towards commercial space flight.

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The extension was announced on March 30, the same day **Virgin Galactic's** newest spaceship was revealed. **Land Rover** continues to support the spaceline's day-to-day operations with vehicles, including the Range Rover Astronaut Edition.

"Accessible space travel for explorers worldwide is the next great big adventure," said Joe Eberhardt, president and CEO of Jaguar Land Rover North America, in a statement. "Land Rover is proud to work alongside the Virgin Galactic team to support all future astronauts as they push the boundaries of personal adventure even further."

Taking flight

Land Rover and Virgin Galactic first entered into a partnership in 2014, and the three-year extension will result in a decade of collaboration.

Among the support Land Rover vehicles provide Virgin Galactic are towing space vehicles, carrying equipment and clearing runways. Land Rover also supported the company's relocation of its manufacturing and test site in Mojave, CA to its commercial spaceport in New Mexico.

Virgin Galactic founder Sir Richard Branson and Jaguar Land Rover chief creative officer Prof. Gerry McGovern OBE also revealed the Range Rover Astronaut Edition in 2019. The luxury SUV is only available to Virgin Galactic Future Astronauts.



A Range Rover Astronaut Edition alongside the VSS Imagine. Image credit: Jaguar Land Rover

The spaceline is completing test flights with its "SpaceShipTwo" and is set to begin regular commercial service. There are already about 600 Future Astronaut customers signed up, who will be transported to their spaceflights in Land Rover vehicles.

A Range Rover Astronaut Edition was side-by-side the Spaceship VSS Imagine, Virgin Galactic's first Spaceship III, when it was revealed. Glide flights are expected to begin in New Mexico this summer.

Similarly, a Range Rover Autobiography helped unveil the Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo, officially christened VSS Unity, in early 2016 ([see story](#)).

"We are delighted to be able to extend this strong partnership," said Michael Colglazier, CEO of Virgin Galactic, in a statement. "With a shared pioneering spirit, pursuit of adventure and vision to push the boundaries of travel, this is a natural collaboration between our two companies and one that will take exploration."