



ROSIE THE ROCKETEER

“Rosie the Rocketeer,” Boeing’s anthropometric test device, will be reclaiming the commander’s seat for the CST-100 Starliner’s Orbital Flight Test (OFT-2) mission to and from the International Space Station.

Rosie’s first flight provided engineers with hundreds of data points about what astronauts will experience during a Starliner mission, but this time she’ll help maintain the spacecraft’s center of gravity during ascent, docking, undocking and landing.

For OFT-2, spacecraft data capture ports previously connected to Rosie’s 15 sensors will be used to collect data from sensors placed along the Starliner’s seat pallet, which is the infrastructure that holds all the crew seats in place. This data will be used to ensure all future crew members have a safe, enjoyable ride.

Rosie embodies everything you would expect from her name: inspiration, strength, hope, determination, and the future of human spaceflight.



“Rosie the Rocketeer” suited up for OFT-2.

WHY ROSIE?

One of the most recognizable and famous icons of both World War II and Boeing is “Rosie the Riveter” – a persona proudly adopted by millions of women who, driven by a patriotic spirit, took jobs at shipyards, armament factories and aircraft companies. Rosie the Riveter was the star of the campaign, which recruited women for defense industries jobs during World War II and resulted in women entering the workforce in record numbers.

Boeing has a rich history of championing women, starting with the first seamstress who was hired at the company’s inception in 1916. She just happened to also be a “Rosie” -- Rosie Farrar. She stitched together linen wings for the early B&W seaplanes. Just two years later, Helen Holcombe joined Boeing as the first woman in the engineering department.



“Rosie the Rocketeer” will be wearing a signed, red polka dot scarf and matching face mask that was hand-sewn by 95-year-old Mae Krier. Krier is a real-life Rosie who helped build planes in a Boeing factory in Seattle when she was 17 years old.

After America entered World War I in 1917, women made up 25 percent of the workforce at Boeing. These early employees helped ensure the success of the company in its infancy and proudly contributed to the war effort during World War I, just as their daughters and granddaughters would years later.

As World War II escalated, Boeing faced an employment crisis as men left for military service. To keep the legendary B-17 Flying Fortress bombers rolling out the doors on schedule, Boeing turned with great hope to a promising pool of untapped female talent. At the height of the war, women made up nearly half of the work force and they exemplified the motto “We can do it!” These pioneers helped Boeing to turn out an astounding twelve bombers a day.

Former Boeing Defense, Space & Security President and CEO Leanne Caret, had hand in choosing Rosie’s name. Her parents met at the height of the Apollo program and she was born on Florida’s Space Coast.



ROSL'S IMPACT ON BOEING TODAY

Today, Rosie is a symbol of not only the women who are blazing a historical trail in human spaceflight, but of everyone who has shown grit and determination while working tirelessly to ensure the Starliner can transport astronauts safely to and from the International Space Station.

The Rosies of today provide tremendous leadership and contribute to Boeing's success in all areas of aerospace innovation. Take for example, the NASA astronauts who have either contributed to the development of Starliner or trained for flight tests and missions aboard the spacecraft, including Nicole Mann, Suni Williams and Dr. Jeanette Epps.

Boeing remains committed to recruiting, supporting and developing diverse talent. In 2021, women's representation in our workforce increased to 23.2% in the United States and 24.6% internationally, both because of hiring efforts and stronger retention. Although our gender representation is on par with the aerospace and defense industry, we're accelerating our investments in the early science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) pipeline to help strengthen diverse representation. In 2021, Boeing engaged with an estimated 2.7 million young women and girls through various STEM programs.



Wearing her Boeing blue spacesuit and red polka-dot headscarf and face mask, teams strapped "Rose the Rocketeer" anthropometric test device securely into the Starliner's commander seat.

MORE INFORMATION:

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