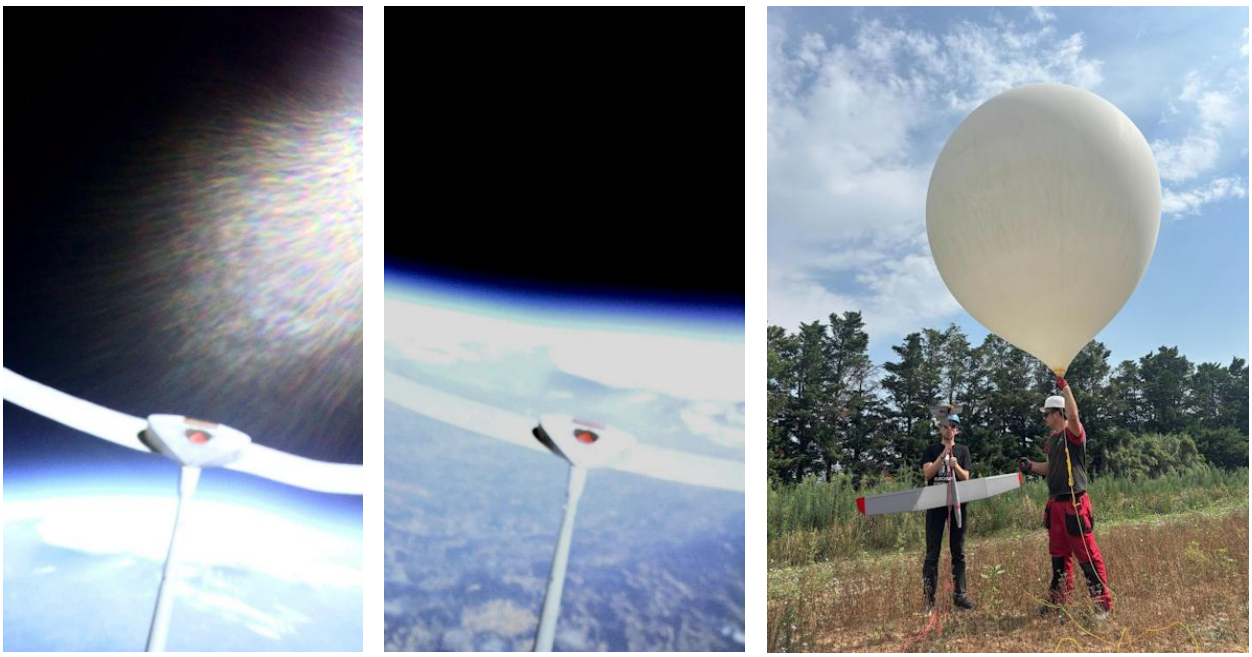
Press Release

SPARTAN SPACE Successfully Conducts High-Altitude Demonstration at 24 000m of its TRITON Stratospheric Drone for Civil and Military Applications

SPARTAN SPACE has successfully completed the first high-altitude flight test of its TRITON stratospheric drone, marking an important milestone in the company's development of affordable, rapidly deployable high-altitude systems. The flight took place on 31 July 2026. A high-altitude balloon carried the TRITON test vehicle to a position above 24 kilometres, where the drone was successfully released in the stratosphere to begin its autonomous flight. The mission validated the operational chain, including launch operations via a stratospheric balloon, ascent into the stratosphere, controlled separation of the drone from the balloon, telemetry acquisition and onboard imaging throughout the flight.

"*The initial analysis of the flight data confirms the well-known challenges associated with stratospheric flight*," said Dr. Peter Weiss, CEO of SPARTAN SPACE. "*Multiple wind layers, combined with the extremely low-density atmosphere, create a highly demanding aerodynamic environment that makes the development of stratospheric drones particularly challenging. This is precisely why high-altitude flight testing is essential. Systems that perform flawlessly at low altitude are by no means guaranteed to behave the same way in near-space conditions. Our objective with this series of test flights is to validate our models, continuously improve the drone's design, and mature the technology through real operational experience in the stratosphere.*"



Photographs of the launch and the drone flight at 24km altitude [credit: Spartan Space]

TRITON is being developed as a lightweight, rapidly deployable high-altitude platform capable of carrying a wide range of mission-specific payloads into the stratosphere without requiring conventional aircraft infrastructure. Designed as a modular and scalable system, TRITON addresses both civilian and defense requirements, enabling missions ranging from Earth observation and communications to intelligence, electronic warfare and other operational effects. "*The proposed TRITON concept is to provide an economic, quickly deployable stratospheric drone that can operate in within some minutes in a specific airspace*" says Quentin Wibaut, Institutional Affairs Manager of Spartan Space, "*it is a complementary system to other stratospheric solutions that remain for longer periods of time. Our solution aims to be quick in stratosphere, attain a target and then come back*".

The stratosphere remains one of today's least exploited operational domains. Situated between conventional aviation and space, it offers a unique environment in which persistent, affordable and rapidly deployable capabilities are only beginning to emerge. SPARTAN SPACE believes that the next generation of high-altitude autonomous platforms will play a key role in unlocking this domain for scientific, commercial and, in particular, defence applications. Operating at stratospheric altitudes may allow such systems to fly beyond the effective reach of many conventional detection and countermeasure capabilities. At the same time, this environment presents significant technical challenges. The TRITON concept builds on technologies and expertise developed by SPARTAN SPACE for the space sector. Its avionics, communications systems and payloads must be miniaturised and adapted to near-space conditions. Analysis of the flight data is now underway, and the company is already preparing the next series of test flights, incorporating the lessons learned from this first campaign. To support the next stage of development, SPARTAN SPACE is currently raising capital to industrialize the TRITON platform and establish a dedicated manufacturing capability for stratospheric drones.

About SPARTAN SPACE

SPARTAN SPACE is an aerospace company with operations in France, Germany and the United States. The company develops advanced technologies for space exploration, defense and high-altitude operations. Its portfolio includes solutions for human and robotic spaceflight, and stratospheric platforms designed for scientific, commercial, governmental and defense applications. Through rapid prototyping, operational demonstrations and close collaboration with institutional and industrial partners, SPARTAN SPACE accelerates the development and industrialization of next-generation aerospace systems.

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