The Mojave Desert, 150km north of Los Angeles, now known as the "Virgin Galactic" space tourism hub, aims to carry paying passengers into the Edge of Space (at around 100km altitude), possibly to the edge of the atmosphere. The Virgin Galactica flight is planned for the spring and summer of 2018. Branson, a former British entrepreneur, is one of the investors in the project.

 already 300 wealthy adventurers are said to have signed up for the proposed flights costing approximately $250,000, 5-hour flights to experience weightlessness and views of the Earth, the thin surface of the atmosphere and perhaps the southern edge of space. While each space shuttle mission is estimated to cost $150m, a Virgin Galactic tourist ticket is expected to be $250,000. Branson, a former British entrepreneur, is one of the investors in the project.

Behind the huge ambitious project is led by 60-year-old Burt Rutan, an aerospace engineer who has broken countless records on his designs, including the famous "スペースシャトル" (the Space Shuttle). Rutan has been working on the project for several years and has already built several prototypes. The spacecraft is called "Virgin Galactic" and can carry six passengers and two crew members.

The Virgin Galactic flight is planned for the spring and summer of 2018. Branson, a former British entrepreneur, is one of the investors in the project.

United States

Billionaire Richard Branson went on a short flight in a suborbital spaceplane. The spacecraft, named "Virgin Galactic," reached an altitude of 80km, or around 260,000 feet, and returned safely to Earth. Branson has been a long-time advocate of space tourism and has invested heavily in the industry. He founded Virgin Galactic in 2004 and has since become one of the leading players in the space tourism sector.

Left: Taking flight.