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& SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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*Scaled Composites flying the 385-ft.-span Stratolaunch carrier aircraft early in 2018 should be a fitting start for a global aerospace and defense industry that is expected to continue to grow but faces challenges from several directions. Our Aerospace & Defense 2018 issue looks at those prospects and challenges in detail.*



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*There will be no shortage of big ideas and big challenges in 2018 as the aerospace and defense industry navigates disruptive technologies, trade tensions and nationalist politics. Launch vehicles will be the center of the action in the space sector, from SpaceX's reusable Falcon 9 first stage—pictured in this SpaceX photo landing on an unmanned barge after launching Iridium Next satellites—and Falcon Heavy to smallsat boosters such as Virgin Orbit's air-dropped LauncherOne and Vector Space Systems' Vector-R. Aviation Week publishes a digital edition every week. Read it at [AviationWeek.com/awst](http://AviationWeek.com/awst)*



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