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Virgin Orbit's LauncherOne rocket is heading for captive-carry flight tests after being mounted for fit checks on a specially designed pylon beneath the left wing of the company's Boeing 747-400 carrier aircraft at Long Beach, California. Targeted at the burgeoning smallsat market, the launch vehicle is expected to enter service in 2019 after an intense flight-test program. Senior Editor Guy Norris' report begins on page 48. Virgin Orbit photo by Greg Robinson. Aviation Week publishes a digital edition every week. Read it at [AviationWeek.com/awst](http://AviationWeek.com/awst)



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