

US Spacecraft Involved in First American Attempt to Land on the Moon in More than 50 Years. Doomed US Moon Lander on Collision Course with Earth?

'We do not believe Peregrine's re-entry poses safety risks,' company says

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A US spacecraft involved in the first American attempt to land on the Moon in more than 50 years is headed back down to Earth, its maker said.

The private mission by Pittsburgh-based space company Astrobotic, dubbed Peregrine Mission One, <u>set off from Earth last Monday</u> and was schedueld to land on the lunar surface on 23 February.

But a <u>fuel leak sealed its fate</u>, and about 30 hours after launch the company admitted the spacecraft had "no chance" of achieving a soft landing on the Moon.

In its latest update on the <u>spacecraft</u>, the firm said it was "on a path towards Earth" and that it would "likely" burn up on re-entry.

"Our latest assessment now shows the spacecraft is on a path towards Earth, where it will likely burn up in the Earth's atmosphere," Astrobotic posted on X, without sharing much information on when the re-entry is expected to happen.

"We have been evaluating how best to safely end the spacecraft's mission to protect satellites in Earth orbit as well as ensure we do not create debris in cislunar space," the company said in a blog post on Monday.

Click here to read the full article on The Independent.

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Featured image: Peregrine being rolled out to <u>Space Launch Complex 41</u> atop a <u>Vulcan Centaur</u> on January 5, 2024 (From the Public Domain)

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