

150+ Hour Experience: *SpaceX* Internship

Emilie Steinberg

Overview

- **Company:** SpaceX
- **Role:** Mechanical Engineering Intern
- **Team:** Facilities
- **Timeframe:** Summer 2024
- **Project Types:** Infrastructure design



Project Scope

Projects:

- Facilities engineering support for Falcon 9 launch and manufacturing operations
- Infrastructure planning for launch cadence growth
- Facility layout and space planning for operational efficiency
- Coordination of design, construction, and on-site implementation

Engineering Tools:

- Revit
- MatLab



Impact

Collaboration:

- Worked with facilities, mechanical, structural, and operations engineers
- Incorporated feedback from cross-functional design reviews
- Coordinated with contractors to align design intent and execution

Contributions:

- Created and updated facility layouts based on operational needs
- Performed calculations to support design and space planning decisions
- Implemented design changes following engineering reviews
- Supported timely design updates in a fast-paced environment

Skill Development

Challenges:

- Managing evolving requirements and limited initial data
- Working under tight timelines and rapid iteration cycles

Learnings:

- Early verification of inputs reduces design rework
- Value of clear communication across teams
- How infrastructure design directly affects launch operations

Reflection

- Gained an understanding of how large engineering organizations operate at scale
- Saw how infrastructure and facilities work directly enable mission-critical outcomes
- Learned how engineering decisions are influenced by operations, timelines, and risk
- Developed confidence working in environments with high expectations and rapid turnover

