What SpaceX filing shows about Elon Musk's web of scam shell companies

By **Madeline Berg**

Elon Musk's companies pay each other hundreds of millions of dollars a year, according to SpaceX's S-1. ODD ANDERSEN/AFP

Step right up to Elon Musk's financial merry-go-round.

Tucked more than 200 pages into SpaceX's S-1 paperwork, which the company filed on Wednesday, is an outline of how interconnected Musk's various companies are, including through more than $660 million in payments, goods, and services involving SpaceX and his other ventures last year.

Musk has his hands in many pots. In addition to being the CEO of aerospace company SpaceX, he's the CEO (and "Technoking") of electric carmaker Tesla, the founder of tunneling business The Boring Company, the cofounder of brain chip firm Neuralink, and was the CEO of xAI, until it merged with SpaceX in February. In various ways, the companies are all intermingled.

SpaceX said in the filing that there may be "conflicts of interest," but ultimately, they benefit investors.

It's not uncommon for companies with certain ties to do business with one another and to spell out these relationships in a prospectus filing when they plan to go public. The breakdown in SpaceX's S-1 is the first look we're getting at some of its connections, including SpaceX's deals with The Boring Company or its purchase of Tesla Cybertrucks.

The biggest expenses between the companies fell under the banner of "commercial, licensing, and support."

Last year, SpaceX paid Tesla $144 million under such agreements, a figure significantly higher than in years past. xAI, then a separate entity, spent more, paying Tesla $506 million last year. xAI, then a separate entity, spent more, paying Tesla $506 million last year, while also bringing in $2 millon in revenue from Tesla.

The majority of SpaceX's cumulative $650 million in spending with Tesla was for Megapack products, Tesla's battery storage system. SpaceX also bought $131 million worth of Cybertrucks, which, at a starting retail price of $69,990 a pop, would be as many as 1,871 vehicles.

Additionally, Tesla paid $4 million last year to advertise on X.

Some expenses were driven by pure practicality: Tesla paid SpaceX $2 million to use its aircraft, X leased office space from The Boring Company for $1 million, and xAI rented space from the billionaire's umbrella company, Musk Industries LLC, for $2 million last year. SpaceX also spent $4 million on a security company owned by Musk for his personal security, as Tesla has done, per its filings.

Other expenses were mind-scratchers. SpaceX paid The Boring Company $1 million in connection with the construction of tunnels in Bastrop, Texas. These could be the tunnels connecting his facilities reported by local outlets, or they could be related to the chip facility SpaceX is building there.

Tesla and SpaceX's relationship is more than transactional

Musk's companies plan to continue doing business together, particularly Tesla and SpaceX, which, the company said, have a "strong and constructive partnership."

Tesla owns nearly 19 million shares of SpaceX stock. While that represents less than 1% of the company, at a target valuation of $1.5 trillion, those shares would be worth about $4.1 billion.

SpaceX and Tesla also have major projects in the works. The pair is developing Macrohard, an agentic AI platform, and, along with Intel, has partnered on Terafab, a manufacturing initiative that creates chips for Tesla's robots and vehicles, as well as SpaceX's orbital compute infrastructure.

The projects are set to be the beginning of a long relationship.

"We plan to explore other areas of strategic collaboration with Tesla in the future," the document says.

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Madeline Berg is a correspondent at Business Insider, where she covers the wealthy, famous, and powerful. Her stories include analyses of some of the most well known billionaires, from Mark Zuckerberg to MrBeast, investigations into celebrity brands, and deep dives into figures like Jeffrey Epstein and Leon Black.Her article on erosion in Nantucket won a National Association of Real Estate Editors award, and her story about Diddy's world falling apart was a finalist for an LA Press Club Award.Previously, she was at Forbes. Her work included cover stories on Tyler Perry and Shonda Rhimes, investigations into Kylie Jenner's beauty brand, and deep dives into Britney

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