

NASA Investment in Commercial Crew

“NASA ought to be exploring outer space and doing new things, and turning over the transportation of goods and people to low Earth orbit... [as] a commercial endeavor, in our view.”

-Norman Augustine, Chair of the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee

“We need to get NASA out of the business of getting crew [to Low Earth Orbit].”

-Sally Ride, former NASA astronaut and member of the Augustine Committee

Following an endorsement by the Augustine Committee, established by the White House to review U.S. human spaceflight, the NASA FY2011 budget proposes a \$6 billion program to develop multiple commercial capabilities to transport crew to the International Space Station.

Commercial Crew will reduce our dependence on Russia and prevent extra U.S. taxpayer dollars from being sent overseas:

- When the Space Shuttle retires in 2011, the U.S. will purchase seats on Russian Soyuz vehicles to send our astronauts to the \$100 billion Space Station, sending our funds overseas at the price of at least \$51 million per seat.
- Russian per-seat prices have continued to rise, and without a near-term domestic alternative, we are vulnerable to even greater increases in Russian prices.

Commercial Crew will create jobs across multiple large and small companies:

- Companies that have publicly expressed interest in participating include United Launch Alliance (4000 employees), as well as medium sized companies such as Sierra Nevada Corporation (2000 employees) and SpaceX (1000 employees), all companies that have built and flown space hardware in orbit.
- A full Commercial Crew program would leverage private investment to create thousands of jobs in Florida, Nevada, Colorado, Virginia, Texas, California, and Alabama.

Commercial Crew offers our best opportunity to reduce the U.S. spaceflight gap:

- Commercial human spaceflight will not require the development of completely new launch vehicles, instead using existing vehicles and those already under development such as the Atlas V, Taurus II, or Falcon 9. Combined, these vehicles are already set to fly over 40 flights to orbit in the next four years.
- Only through a Commercial Crew program will it be possible to fully utilize the Space Station for scientific research, expanding the Space Station workforce at several NASA centers.

Commercial Crew will leverage an industry that is already trusted to safely launch multi-billion national security assets and scientific missions:

- The commercial spaceflight industry is already relied upon to launch multi-billion-dollar national security missions, upon which the safety of our nation and our armed forces depends, as well as expensive, one-of-a-kind scientific satellites for government customers including NASA.