

## **COMMERCIAL SPACE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Commercial Cargo Space Accomplishments**

The Obama Administration's ambitious commercial space program, which has bipartisan support in Congress, has enabled NASA's successful partnership with two American companies now able to resupply the station - SpaceX and Orbital Sciences.

A little more than two years after the end of the Space Shuttle Program, these companies have begun resupplying the space station with cargo launched from U.S. soil. This marks a significant milestone in NASA's plan to rely on American companies to launch supplies and astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS), bringing this important work back to the United States where it belongs.

To date, SpaceX and Orbital Sciences have each successfully resupplied the space station, and more missions to deliver scientific investigations and cargo are planned. This partnership is changing the way NASA does business, helping build a strong American commercial space industry, and freeing the agency to focus on developing the next-generation rocket and spacecraft that will allow us to travel farther in space than ever before. Safe, reliable and affordable commercial access to low-Earth Orbit is a critical component of NASA's parallel path for human exploration. The research being conducted aboard the space station made possible by SpaceX and Orbital Sciences transportation services, advances NASA's future deep space exploration objectives.

Key Accomplishments include:

- Restoration of American capability to deliver and return ISS cargo, replacing our reliance on foreign providers;
- Reuse of facilities at Kennedy Space Center and other NASA flight facilities by commercial partners;
- Adding NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on the Virginia Eastern Shore as America's newest spaceport capable of launching to the space station and opening up additional opportunities for commercial and government users.
- The increased use of hosted payloads and deployment of CubeSats by more industry and university partners;

### **Commercial Crew Progress**

The Administration is also committed to launching American astronauts from U.S. soil within the next four years.

Recent progress includes:

- Key milestones in commercial crew development met by 3 American companies: Boeing, SpaceX and Sierra Nevada;
- A Nov. 19 Request for Proposals on the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract, designed to ensure commercial companies meet NASA's safety requirements for transporting NASA's crew to the International Space Station.
- Unfunded Space Act Agreements with other potential commercial providers;
- Creation of a Space Technology program focused on breakthrough innovations that will change future transportation options;
- These accomplishments have been bolstered by the extension of International Space Station operations to 2020, enabling expanded commercial and research opportunities.