Project Orion and America’s Space Exploration Program Transition

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Constellation: Defining Our Course to the Future

- America’s transition to a new era of Space Exploration
  - Shuttle/ISS transition to Orion/Ares I and V, Earth Departure Stage, Lunar Lander and Outpost
  - Space operations and ground processing transition to design and development
  - Low Earth Orbit operations transition to missions exploring the moon, Mars and other destinations

- Constellation provides the over-riding architecture guiding our nation’s transition in space
  - Identifies individual project elements
  - Provides both near-term capabilities and an integrated systems framework bridging to future capabilities and systems
Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle – 2007 Accomplishments

• First year record of tremendous progress
  – Successful SDR
  – Agreement with NASA on design Point of Departure
  – First delivery of Orion support hardware
  – Subsystem and System level testing
  – Exploration Development Laboratory

• Public Awareness and Political Advocacy
  – Industry collaboration and leadership in Coalition for Space Exploration and Citizens for Space Exploration
  – Education outreach events at QPMRs (Phoenix, Hartford, Sacramento)
  – NASA 50th Anniversary Lecture Series with Mike Griffin (NASA Administrator), Eric Schmidt (CEO, Google) and Stephen Hawking (Physicist)
Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle – 2008 Opportunities & Challenges

• The “Road to PDR”

• Abort Launch System – Pad Abort 1 Test

• O&C Facility at Kennedy Space Center

• Trade Studies and design options

• Block upgrade strategy
Conclusion

- America’s future in space is exciting and promising

- Constellation is the right architecture for moving forward to a new era of space exploration

- Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle is the flagship of our nation’s future in space

- Public awareness and political support efforts are key to ensuring sustained program success