Charles Bolden, NASA Administrator

Orion Exploration Design Challenge

Johnson Space Center

March 11, 2013

- Thank you, Mark [Geyer]. I want to welcome all of you to the Johnson Space Center. For more than 50 years, JSC has played a vital role in America's human spaceflight program both as our storied home of mission control and the place where every astronaut trains to earn their wings.
- All of us remember those immortal words associated with the 1970 Apollo 13 moon mission – "Houston we have a problem."
- Today we are here to announce an effort in partnership with Lockheed Martin and the young people of America that will allow us about a year from now to proclaim, "Houston we have a solution."
- In a moment you will hear details of the NASA/Lockheed Martin Exploration Design Challenge that will play a vital role in the launch of *Orion*, America's next generation spacecraft, set for its maiden voyage next year. I want to take a few minutes to talk a little about the genesis and purpose of *Orion*.
- Three years ago, President Obama set a goal of sending humans farther into space than we have ever been – to an asteroid by 2025 and to Mars in the 2030s.

- After prolonged deliberations, Congress and the President agreed that the best way to do that was for NASA to turn over the delivery of cargo and crew to the International Space Station and other low-Earth destinations to private companies so that we could concentrate on building America's next generation space exploration system – the *Orion* spacecraft and the Space Launch System.
- By investing in American companies—and American ingenuity—we are spurring free-market competition to give taxpayers more bang for the buck, while enabling NASA to do what it does best—reach deeper into our solar system.
- We're also ending the out-sourcing of American space jobs and bringing them right back here to Houston and other states all across the country.
- This strategy is producing tangible results.
- On March 1st, SpaceX launched the second of 12 scheduled cargo missions to the ISS. The company's Dragon capsule executed a successful berthing to the ISS two days later and has now delivered 1,200 pounds of supplies, fresh food and science experiments.
- As the only vehicle capable of returning large amounts of cargo and experiments back to Earth, Dragon will be fully loaded when it splashes down in the Pacific off the California coast on March 25th.
- This capability is key to enabling NASA to attain our goal of sending humans to an asteroid and Mars.

- These ambitious missions will depend on engagement from every sector of society – from scientists and astronauts at NASA to our corporate partners like Lockheed Martin to America's K-12 students.
- When *Orion* takes its first test flight in 2014, it will travel farther into space than any spacecraft developed for human spaceflight has flown in the 40 years since our astronauts returned from the moon.
- This will require new technologies, including new ways to keep our astronauts safe from deep space radiation.
- That is the purpose of this challenge and we are excited that American students will be helping us solve that problem.
- This project also supports NASA's commitment to inspiring more young people to study and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math – the STEM disciplines.
- As you all know, STEM educated workers are the key to America's technological leadership and economic growth in the 21st century.
- NASA and the entire aerospace industry, in particular, will need a steady pipeline of scientists, engineers, and technicians so we can continue to push the boundaries of exploration and do our part to reinvigorate America's manufacturing, scientific, and high-tech industries.
- The *Orion* Exploration Design Challenge will give more young people a chance to develop those skills.

- I want to thank Lockheed, our education team at NASA, led by former astronaut, Leland Melvin and the young people of America for your commitment and involvement in America's space program.
- At this time, I want to bring to the podium our great partner in this endeavor – the new president and CEO of Lockheed Martin, Marillyn Hewson…