

**Tracking Number 2010-03-07 (CSC-03)**  
**Concept of Operations and Acquisition Approach**

**NASA Advisory Council Recommendation:**

The Council recommends that NASA structure the crew transportation service acquisition approach and associated ISS concept of operations to take maximum advantage of the variety of potential commercial transportation capabilities. The Council recommends that future commercial crew transportation service solicitations simply specify the minimum and maximum number of seats to and from the ISS NASA would purchase in a given solicitation. This approach will allow bidders flexibility to structure the offer that best fits the offeror's business model.

**NASA Response:**

NASA concurs and plans to maximize the number of commercial partners to the greatest extent practical within budget constraints. It is our goal to enable a diverse portfolio of commercial transportation service capabilities with the intent of allowing for the commercial industry to expand their business cases to include NASA's needs, as well as those of the public. We recognize the importance of supporting the business models of various potential partners and, as such, we are establishing processes and requirements that allow for flexibility throughout the life cycle of the program.

NASA's acquisition strategy is still in development. We hope to have a better definition of the instruments (or combination of instruments), performance objectives, and safety requirements and standards in the spring of 2011 to support a solicitation for commercial crew transportation development agreements.

However, is it unlikely that NASA will only specify the minimum and maximum number of seats. NASA has already identified additional performance objectives for commercial crew systems. For example, the 2010 NASA Authorization Act requires NASA to include crew rescue requirements in any solicitation for commercial crew capabilities.