

NAC Tracking Number 2010-04-07 (EC-03)
Developing Operability Incentives When Acquiring Commercial Crew Capabilities

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation:

NASA should develop operability incentives for the acquisition of commercial crew capabilities. These incentives should drive commercial partner design to include features resulting in recurring cost of operations low enough to attract other customers in addition to NASA.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs. NASA's commercial crew program strategy includes several features that incentivize cost-effective recurring operations for all customers, including the Government. First, NASA will impose only the minimum set of requirements on commercial partners to ensure safety while enabling innovative and cost-effective design solutions. Second, NASA will require the commercial partners to share in the cost of the design and development of commercial crew capabilities, which will encourage the commercial partners to minimize costs and acquire other customers in order to get a return on its investment. Third, NASA will strive for competition among multiple commercial partners throughout the design, development, test, evaluation, and certification phase and, ideally, through the award of any service to ISS, which is the predominant incentive to minimize operations costs. Note: The ability to fund multiple commercial partners will be based on available budget.