

Commercial Programs

NASA Advisory Committee Meeting May 2023 Phil McAlister, Director, Commercial Space Division, SOMD



Commercial Crew Program (CCP) Status

CCP Flight Accomplishments CCP is proud to be a new chapter in human spaceflight



Commercial Crew Program Summary





Crew-5 Status and Crew-6/Crew-7 Readiness





Crew-5 Status

- Launched on October 5, 2022
- Docked to ISS on October 6, 2022
- Landed March 12, 2023



Downhill reviews in work





Crew-6 Readiness

- Launched March 2, 2023
- Docked duration up to six months
- Return following a short handover with Crew-7
- Dragon Status (206-4, Endeavour)
- Falcon Status (Stage One: B1078-1, Stage Two: 2211)
- Crew-6 Endeavour vehicle and crew continue nominal on-orbit operations
- Post flight reviews in work



Crew-7 Readiness

- Planned launched NET mid August 2023
- Docked duration up to six months
- Crew-7 product closure list in work; metric scorecard pending



Crew Flight Test (CFT) Status





- Crew: Barry "Butch" Wilmore, Suni Williams
 - Launch Vehicle: Atlas V
 - Starliner: Spacecraft 3 Calypso, previously flew OFT-1
- Boeing Crew Flight Test targeted for launch NET July 21, 2023
- Boeing has made significant progress on CFT hardware processing
- Certification products continue to be a pacing item
 - Over 90% of Certification products are complete
 - Most remaining Certification products are planned to close by end of May
 - Long pole Certification product completion is Parachute Verification Closure Notice and Hazard Reports
 - Results from ongoing testing could potentially drive additional effort prior to CFT and/or Certification
 - First American-made orbital crew capsule to land on land with crew
 - First launch of crew from Cape Canaveral since 1968 (Apollo 7)



- Cost performance of the CCtCap contracts with Boeing and SpaceX has been very good. Maximum Value Percentage Growth average is 6.7%, which is under the CCP GAO contract growth reporting metric of 15%.
- The SpaceX contract mods for Crew 7-14 are excluded from the cost growth metric.
- Positive Unfunded Future Expenses (i.e., reserves) balance should be sufficient for the rest of the fiscal year.



Commercial LEO Development Program Status

ISS-to-CLD Transition





Full and open competition, one or more awards

Comm LEO Program Accomplishments

- FY23 was second straight year of full funding for the program, and it more than doubled from the FY22 budget (\$224M, up from \$102M)
- > The first Private Astronaut Mission successfully completed and two more in work
- Over a dozen development milestones completed by Commercial LEO
 Destination (CLD) partners
- > Three program documents released via RFIs
- Awarded two SBIR contracts related to Commercial LEO
- Released an Announcement for Proposals for no-exchange-of-funds Space Act Agreements focused on Comm LEO capabilities (Collaborations for Commercial Space Capabilities-2)

Comm LEO Program Upcoming Milestones

NASA

- Execute second and third Private Astronaut Missions to the ISS
- Continue to facilitate progress on CLD development efforts (Axiom, Blue Origin, Nanoracks, Northrop Grumman)
- Release initial set of CLD Requirements (Destination, Crew, Cargo, and Utilization)
- Refine CLD Certification Strategy
- Begin Office of Technology Policy and Strategy-led study of CLD insurance and liability options
- > Award CCSC-2 agreements

International Partnerships in Post-ISS LEO



- NASA and ISS international partners have been meeting to discuss future LEO activities and potential cooperation arrangements
- > Key NASA policy decisions:
 - International space agencies are welcome to make direct partnering agreements with CLD providers
 - NASA will be pursuing partnerships with international space agencies for joint science/utilization activities onboard CLDs
 - NASA is open to cooperation with international space agencies on cargo and/or crew transportation capabilities to support CLD activities and facilitate future LEO flight opportunities. Such flight opportunities are envisioned to be additive to NASA's requirement of 2 crew continuously on orbit.
 - NASA does NOT intend to provide LEO services to foreign governments or space agencies for the provision of CLD infrastructure



Suborbital Crew (SubC) Status

Suborbital Crew Program



- SubC continues to engage Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic in an innovative "Safety Case" approach to meet Agency objectives
 - These objectives include expanding acceptable platforms available to Civil Servants to support human-tended research in microgravity
 - Partnering with the FAA on lessons learr ed and capabilities to ensure a streamlined transition to regulation of passenger safety in space
 - Fostering the development of commercial space through technical insight, engagement, and advocacy for safe and reliable systems
- SubC Safety Case approach utilizes an evidenced-based paradigm without specific direction or requirements
 - Safety Case strategy includes comprehensive look at safety by focusing on design and operational standards, processes and procedures coupled with targeted "deep dives" into traditionally high-risk areas
 - Insight into Provider design standards, processes and procedures
 - Utilizes industry tools (PRAs, Hazard Controls, etc.) to identify and mitigate risk contributors
 - Multiple U.S. organizations, including NASA, major aerospace companies, DoD weapon systems and civil/commercial aircraft are already embracing the Safety Case approach

Suborbital Crew Program Status

- SubC leverages experience base of Commercial Crew and Flight Worthiness Process at Armstrong Flight Research Center
- Blue Origin deep dives include
 - Escape System (wrapping up)
 - Propulsion System (on going)
 - Parachute System
- Virgin Galatic deep dives include
 - Propulsion system (on going)
 - Mechanisms
 - Operations

Safety Case evaluation of both potential providers on track to be completed in first quarter of 2024

Challenges



- Ensuring that we (NASA, SpaceX, and Boeing) continue to safely fly crew to/from the ISS.
- Ensuring there is no "gap" in U.S. human presence in LEO.
- While Commercial Cargo and Crew development programs represented huge paradigm changes for the Agency, Commercial LEO Destinations and Suborbital Crew represent equally large changes in the way NASA does business.
- The Agency is embracing less traditional development strategies with a variety of acquisition and partnering strategies. While this movement is positive, it comes with risks.

Summary



- CCP is delivering on its goal of safe, reliable and costeffective transportation to and from ISS from the United States through a partnership with American private industry
- The Comm LEO Program continues to make good progress on development milestones, program requirements, and certification strategy.
- SubC represents a potential significant innovation for human spaceflight systems.









