

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)  
Launch Vehicles in Service or in Development (1)

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NASA'S COMMERCIAL ORBITAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: BUILDING A CARGO  
PATHWAY TO ORBIT

**Abstract**

Through a unique initiative begun in 2005, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has facilitated the development and demonstration of Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS). With a budget of 800,000,000 USD, this initiative is creating two launch vehicles and two spacecraft which can deliver cargo to the International Space Station. The developers of these new commercial cargo services are Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) and Orbital Sciences Corporation (OSC). This paper provides a report on the progress of the COTS programs of SpaceX and OSC as they finish building new commercial pathways for cargo transportation to low-Earth orbit.