

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM (E6)  
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COTS: A MODEL FOR GOVERNMENT/PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

**Abstract**

NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) initiative leverages the unique resources of the government and private sector in an undertaking of mutual benefit. Phase 1 of COTS uses funded Space Act Agreements to establish a cooperative effort in launch vehicle development and demonstration. Phase 2 of COTS uses commercial services contracts to purchase transportation services to the International Space Station. This paper provides an overview of these mechanisms and their potential applicability to other areas where government mission needs intersect commercial markets.