

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS (D2)
Launch services, Missions, Operations and Facilities (2)

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ULA PLANS TO SUPPORT COMMERCIAL CREW LAUNCH

Abstract

The Commercial Crew program within NASA has been created to help facilitate a new vision for the agency which depends on industry to take the leadership role in developing systems capable of safely delivering crew to low earth orbit.

The United Launch Alliance (ULA) currently provides launch services using three expendable launch systems – Delta II, Delta IV and Atlas V. The Atlas and Delta launch system families have been used for more than 50 years to carry a variety of payloads including weather, telecommunications and national security satellites, as well as deep space and interplanetary exploration missions in support of scientific research.

Early in 2010, ULA was selected by NASA to participate in the first round of Commercial Crew Development (CCDev) space act agreements. The goal of ULA's work for the CCDev project is to begin working on modifications to the Atlas and Delta rockets that would satisfy the strict human rating requirements necessary to become qualified to deliver crew to the ISS.

This paper will be used to describe ULA's proposed modifications of Atlas and Delta to support NASA's Commercial Crew Program.