

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

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NASA'S COTS INITIATIVE: DEVELOPING COMMERCIAL CARGO SERVICES FOR LEO

Abstract

To stimulate the commercial space transportation industry, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is facilitating the development and demonstration of Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) by private-sector companies. NASA is pursuing COTS via funded Space Act Agreements with Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) and Orbital Sciences Corporation (OSC). This paper provides a report on the progress of SpaceX and OSC in their efforts to develop reliable and cost-effective commercial transportation to serve the LEO marketplace.