

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Overview Session (Present and Near-Term Human Space Flight Programs) (1)

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CCDEV: FIRST STEP TOWARD COMMERCIAL CREW

Abstract

In his 2011 budget request, U.S. President Obama proposed a major initiative to build the capabilities of the private sector to transport humans, including NASA astronauts, to and from low-Earth orbit. To mature the commercial space industry in preparation for such an undertaking, in early 2010, NASA competitively awarded agreements to five companies to stimulate efforts within the private sector to develop and demonstrate human spaceflight capabilities. The purpose of the Commercial Crew Development (CCDev) initiative is to develop crew concepts and technology demonstrations and investigations for future commercial support of human spaceflight. Using 50 million USD in economic stimulus funds, these efforts intend to foster entrepreneurial activity leading to job growth and economic growth as capabilities for new markets are created. This paper provides an overview of the selected CCDev projects and their progress to date.